

Elections '93

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Elections '93

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Jordanians go to the polls today to elect 12th Parliament

King, premier reaffirm vow to ensure integrity of elections

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians go to the polls today in the Kingdom's first multiparty elections, reaffirming what many observers and diplomats describe as the irreversible course of democratisation that His Majesty King Hussein launched four years ago.

While the electorate seemed unresponsive to efforts by hardliners to turn the elections into an unofficial referendum on the Middle East peace process, the outcome of the polls, however, is seen as crucial to the follow-up of the recent breakthroughs, in the two-year-old Arab Israeli peace negotiations (see separate story).

King Hussein, who has made no secret of his drive to turn Jordan into a model state based on freedom, democracy and human rights in the Middle East, has promised what is expected to be a repeat of the 1989 polls — the fairest and freest elections in the Arab World.

While at least 10 of the 20 political parties of all shades and colours licensed since the formal lifting in September 1992 of a 1957 ban on political groups are fielding candidates, some have opted to run "independents" and others did not enter the electoral race at all.

The elections are also the first since the introduction of a one-person, one-vote system in August this year, and, as such, predicting the outcome with

any degree of accuracy is a very difficult process.

Observers expect not much of a dramatic change in the political line-up in Parliament from the make-up of the previous one. Barring last-minute surprises, the powerful Islamic Action Front (IAF), arguably the most organised party in the Kingdom, is expected to win 19 seats in the 80 parliamentary seats contested by 536 candidates, including three women (see separate story on predictions).

An opinion poll conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan early this year showed that a majority of Jordanians would opt for candidates who would serve the society's needs in terms of infrastructure and services rather than those who raise lofty slogans and promises which they cannot fulfil.

Hardships of daily life in a country with a foreign debt representing 140 per cent of the gross domestic product and the resulting unemployment and poverty were seen to have been the preoccupations of a majority of the voters.

The King, who on Saturday called on the voters to turn out en masse and vote for moderation and dedication, paid a last-minute inspection visit yesterday to the Ministry of Interior to be briefed about the arrangements in place for today's balloting process and vote-counting.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad briefed the

King on the preparations and His Majesty expressed satisfaction with the arrangements.

It also quoted the King as calling on the ministry to provide all facilities to the voters to exercise their right to elect their representatives in Parliament in a free and fair atmosphere.

The King also paid a visit to the headquarters of the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with its chief, Major General Abdul Rahman Al Adwan, and senior officers for a review of the security arrangements for the elections.

Officials said while no serious violation of the law and order was expected, the police force has been put on high alert for 72 hours starting Sunday to ensure the smooth running of the process.

Separately, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali also visited the Ministry of Interior for a review of the election arrangements.

In a statement to Jordan Television, Dr. Majali reiterated promises that the elections would be free, democratic and fair. He also said the authorities had adopted all necessary measures to ensure that no one would be able to tamper with the balloting process.

Dr. Majali, who is expected to vote in his hometown in Karak, called on all citizens to cast their votes and "elect efficient people who could serve the country best."

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His Majesty King Hussein Sunday with Interior Minister Salameh Hammad at the ministry (Petra photo)

Jordan Times reporters conclude analysis of candidates and campaigns in all districts

Tafileh could be won by new faces

By Mariam M. Shahin
and Ghazi Amryeen
in Tafileh

A turbulent campaign, in which "regular" clan members have been fighting the more politicised candidates, has left the people in this "southern" city with the impression that three brand new deputies could represent them in the next Lower House of Parliament.

Disappointment with the performance of the three deputies elected in 1989 has largely characterised the mood of voters in this district of some people 120,000. The votes are split between four major rural towns, with about 24,000 registered voters, and the urban population of

the city of Tafileh, which has some 12,000 registered voters. The turnout in 1989 was 76 per cent among those who had collected their voting cards, but this time the figure is expected to be higher.

"There is today more inter-tribal competition and stronger desire on the part of the urbanites to get their candidates elected to parliament," said Najib Daoudieh, brother and campaign manager of Tafileh candidate Mohammad Daoudieh. "We thus believe that the turnout will be higher."

Observers here believe that the voters will bring about a change this time, by electing less conservative but nevertheless traditional and tribally representative fi-

gures. In 1989 voters elected two Muslim Brotherhood candidates and one independent leftist into the Parliament. The feeling here, as in many other parts of the Kingdom, is of general scepticism about the wisdom of re-electing incumbents who might have not done enough for their constituents. The two Muslim Brotherhood members who won here in 1989 are Abdullah Akayleh and Fuad Khalafat; the independent is Ibrahim Ghabashch.

But whereas Dr. Akayleh and Mr. Ghabashch are seeking reelection in Tafileh on the same platforms, Mr. Khalafat is running else-

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Campaign gathered late steam, focused little on substantive issues

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Last-ditch appeals by some 530 candidates contesting Jordan's first multi-party elections in over three decades yesterday ended a largely provincial electoral campaign that only managed to pick up steam to the last few days.

About 70 per cent of the 1,203 million registered voters who have collected their voting cards are expected to take part in electing the country's 80-member 12th Parliament from among candidates who hardly touched on the major political and economic issues affecting the country in three weeks of campaigning.

Indications are that the 12th Parliament will be largely dominated by mainstream figures and personalities who woo their election bids on tribal credentials and campaign promises rather than on political platforms.

The new Election Law which replaced the bloc-voting system with the one-person, one-vote formula, has been an important factor in forcing political issues out of the electoral race for the support of the 1,514 million-reg-

istered voters by limiting the constituencies of candidates to their immediate localities where concern centred on the direct needs of the people.

The new law, which was introduced in August, also narrowed the scope of campaigning by reducing the undecided votes for which candidates can compete outside their almost already assured support base among members of their tribes, town or city of origin.

By deoying political parties the chance to hold alliances that were possible under the bloc-voting system, the new law "killed the system of promoting political platforms," said one observer.

Coupled with the failure of political parties to enrich the electoral debate through introducing their own political and economic agenda into the campaign, the new law has produced "a tamed campaign" in comparison with that of 1989 when Jordan first embarked on the democratisation process.

With the public perceiving

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Sense of 'alienation' casts shadow on Palestinian-Jordanians' will to vote

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Typical of this year's elections, there is an atmosphere of indifference over the campaign among many Jordanians of Palestinian origin, particularly the 350,000 returnees from Kuwait and the Gulf states despite the high voting registration figures.

There is widespread belief that there is tacit official PLO-Jordanian cooperation to counter the influential Muslim Brotherhood in this year's elections. But despite active involvement from PLO groups, especially the mainstream Fateh faction, in contrast to its passive stance in 1989, Jordanians of Palestinian origin are expected to show a relatively lower turnout in elections.

This year's elections have, for the first time, clearly emphasised the existing but largely hidden East Jordanian-Palestinian divide, and highlighted the PLO's influence on the Palestinian population in the Kingdom.

Several observers noted that the absence of enthusiasm by many Jordanians of Palestinian origin, especially refugee camp residents, is attributed to a feeling of "alienation" from Jordanian politics, particularly after signing of the PLO-Israel agreement on autonomy.

Many Palestinians, who had worked hard to integrate into the system were extremely discouraged by the largely negative reaction (to news of the accord and subsequently its signing) of East Jordanian "nationalists," whom some call Jordan's "Likud." That reaction has contributed to the feeling by more Palestinians that their existence in the Kingdom is "temporary."

But there is also a common feeling by both 1967 and 1948 refugees to continue to work for integration through asserting their political and

civil rights for all Jordanians, especially those of Palestinian origin.

Former Prime Minister Taher Massri, a Jordanian from the West Bank town of Nablus, said "unfortunately the elections do reflect this unprecedented Jordanian-Palestinian divide, but we have to work hard in the future to avoid this unhealthy sign, especially at a time when we most need unity."

There is an overwhelming sense of indecision and a "wait and see" approach among many Palestinians. They either feel detached or have no faith that any Parliament is capable of making any significant changes as far as their lives are concerned.

"People tend to feel they are not counted in, and feel bitter about it," said Labib Kamhawi, who is a Jordanian of Palestinian origin considered a "Palestinian hardliner."

"It is the first time this attitude of alienation could be classified as a domestic feeling rather than being PLO-inspired, which makes it all the more important and ominous in its significance and future impact on the politics of the country."

Recent statements made by Dr. Kamhawi in a CNN report on Palestinian-Jordanian relations have stirred a debate and drew an angry reaction from Jordanian nationalists, which further implied that the sensitivities were escalating rather than fading.

Many Palestinians who thought they had succeeded in integrating, and have become "Jordanised" now admit having difficulty in understanding what is really happening. Observers said it is this feeling of "unacceptance" that has largely contributed to the absence of enthusiasm over the elections.

Ibrahim Shihdeh, a lawyer and one of five candidates from the Baqaa refugee camp, said he expected few Palestinians to vote despite the high registration figures. But it is known that most people registered before the signing of the PLO-Israel autonomy agreement, he said. In the Baqaa camp, for instance, there are 22,500 eligible voters from a total population of 170,000.

Around 18,000 registered for the elections compared to only 5,000 in 1989, but most camp residents and candidates argued that almost two thirds of the registered voters would not cast their votes. The abstentions will come mostly from women and elderly people. If the latter group votes, however, they might favour the Islamic trend.

Although the PLO-Israel accord has directly influenced the Palestinian choice of candidate, it has not been the centre of public debate between voters and contenders. Most candidates said the voters were anxious to know what the candidates position on the agreement was, but heated discussions of the actual accord was usually confined to small, private meetings.

In public, it seems that immediate concerns of most refugee camp residents have revolved around their fate and future, achieving equal political and civil rights. But these concerns also rotate around improving their present living conditions.

The PLO-Israel accord has been viewed as the main factor weakening the Islamists in many Palestinian populated areas, but in general, it has also led to rivalries among candidates supporting the agreement and confusion among the voters.

Lamis Milhem, a doctor who works in Baqaa refugee camp, said he expected few Palestinians to vote despite the high registration figures. But it is known that most people registered before the signing of the PLO-Israel autonomy agreement, he said. In the Baqaa camp, for instance, there are 22,500 eligible voters from a total population of 170,000.

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North Jordan Valley up for grabs

By Suhair Obeidat
and Nasser Shraydeh
in Kourah

THE NORTHERN Jordan Valley and Kourah, in ancient times a crossroad for trade routes, feels betrayed by years of government neglect and wants deputies able to addressing its immediate needs and improving the level of services there. The district and its inhabitants want to be no more the sleepy agricultural area that has been at the northern most end of the rift valley.

Of the 19 candidates contesting the two Muslim seats allocated for this district of some 64,000 voters, which is

part of the Irbid Governorate, two are former deputies: Abdul Majeed Shraydeh (who also served as minister of social development) and Nader Thuhairat.

The Islamic Action Front (IAF) is fielding two candidates, Abdul Aziz Shraydeh (Abdul Majid's uncle) and Ahmad Khatib, both from Kourah, which has 28,224 registered voters.

The IAF has a strong presence in Kourah, a traditionally conservative society, which in the 1984 by-elections gave 12,000 votes of a total of 121,000 to Ahmad Kofahi, the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, when the Irbid Governorate was one

voting district. In 1989, the Brotherhood's candidate, Mohammad Natour, came in third with 4,397.

The IAF is also active in the Jordan Valley where many voters there are expected to vote for the front's candidates in Kourah, according to observers.

Compared to the northern Jordan Valley, allegiance to tribal affiliations in Kourah is poor. The number of families is large, but the size of each family is relatively small and candidates have to do a lot of lobbying among their immediate families and distant relatives in order to win

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Ajloun's could be closest race

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE DISTRICT of Ajloun, some 70 kilometres north of Amman, is likely to witness some of the closest and most unpredictable election results of any other part in the Kingdom. Twenty-nine candidates are vying for three seats, two Muslim and one Christian in a 43,000-strong electorate.

Of the 140,000 inhabitants of the Ajloun district, most live in a dozen large towns that surround Anjara. Many of these have more registered voters than the city of Anjara itself and most of the 29 candidates are from the boroughs rather than from Ajloun city itself.

"The tribal vote will be the overriding criteria in these elections as they were in 1989," said a local observer.

In the 1989 elections, three tribal candidates — Ahmad Annab, Abdul Salam Freihat and Jamal Haddad — received 5,280, 4,473 and 2,855

votes respectively. All three are running for reelection. The minimum number of votes that a candidate must receive today in order to win has been estimated by observers in Ajloun at 4,000.

With the exception of Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate Deifallah Al Momani, all other candidates are running as independents and clan candidates. Except Ajloun itself where Hassan Smad is his clan's (4,000 votes) candidate, all other major rural and urban families in the Ajloun region have at least two candidates each.

The lack of consensus on tribal candidates is likely to create not only split votes but close votes as well.

There are a total of 10 towns where anywhere from 2,000 to 8,000 votes will be cast. In these voting centres there are eight Christian candidates contesting one

seat and 21 Muslims vying for two seats.

Although Ajloun is socially conservative, politicised Islam has spawned limited routes here in the past; but the presence of a strong tribal candidate who is running on the IAF ticket may change that equation.

Mr. Momani and Ahmad Al Momani are being fielded from Irbid, a town which has 3,453 registered voters. Two other members of the Momani clan, Mohammad Saad Saleem Al Momani and Mohammad Saleem Al Momani from the town of Sakra with a voting population of 3,431, are also running. Thus, although the Momani clan could easily vote in a member of their clan with 7,000, the split in the clan has weakened their chances.

But a last-minute consensus by the clan could reverse its fortunes and propel one of

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Centrists, traditionalists expected to form majority in new Lower House

IAF projected to win 19 seats, independent Islamists several more, and leftists some more

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Jordan today will elect a new parliament. Some 800,000 voters are expected to choose 80 deputies from about 530 candidates, who range in outlook and political ideology from the far left to the extreme right. Most of those who will win their bids, however, are expected to be from the centre of the political spectrum: right- and left-of-centre mainstream politicians, traditional figures and tribal representatives.

On the right, religious politicians, mainly represented by the Islamic Action Front (IAF), could win up to 29 seats, but only if there is a huge swing in their favour. Their strength could, on the other hand, go down to 13 representatives in the new Lower House of Parliament should there be a swing to the left and centre by the electorate. What is largely expected, though, is that the IAF will win about 19 seats, down from 23 that the Muslim Brotherhood, the core of the IAF, won in the 1989 elections (see table below).

The elected IAF candidates, who will form the opposition, will be backed by several independent Islamists, who might or might not put their weight behind the political platform of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, whether on the issue of peace negotiations with Israel or the economic programme of the country, among others.

The independent Islamists can be divided between hardliners, of whom no more than a few are expected to be elected, and moderates, who have in the past participated in various governments, without the Brotherhood's consent, blessing or support.

The first group includes former deputies, like Ali Fagir, who is a strong contender in Amman's First District, and candidates running for the first time like Theil Abdullah (also a strong contestant in the First District) and Abdul Majid Al Aqtash in Madaba. The other group includes moderate Islamists who could be associated with the IAF, but are not running on its platform or under its umbrella, like Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat (in Irbid), Mohammad Alawneh (also in Irbid), Atef Bitoush (in Karak), and Abdul Baqi Jamno in Zarqa.

Leftists with a good chance of winning include Faris Nabulsi (Amman's Third District), Fakhri Qawar (Christian, Third District), Yacoub Zayadin (Christian, Third District), Hussein Mjalli (Jerash), Mansour Murad (Irbid), (Circassian, Third District), Hosni Shiyah (Irbid), Mohammad Daoudieh (Tafleeh), Bassam Haddadin (Christian, Zarqa), Jamil Nimri (Christian, Irbid), Samir Habashneh (Karak), Mustapha Sbeikat (Balqa).

A number of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), mainly Fateh, activists could also win a few seats; These include Ibrahim Shihdeh (Balqa), Fahd Bayyari (Second District), and Mahmoud Bashtawi (Khourah).

While not all leftists and pan-Arabists would join the Islamists in their opposition to a peace deal with Israel, none of the Palestinians who may win seats could be expected to join an opposition front with the Brotherhood on that issue.

An imminent swing to either the left or right does not appear to be in the offing. But only final results can be the final judge on this. By tomorrow, we will know exactly what happened. Analyses will follow.

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Libya accuses Western allies of not cooperating with U.N.

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya has accused the U.S., Britain and France of not cooperating with U.N. efforts to settle the Lockerbie suspects dispute and warned that toughening U.N. sanctions would not affect Libya's determination.

The official JANA news agency Saturday denounced what it called a "lack of cooperation" on the part of Washington, London and Paris and said they had provided "no help" to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in his various attempts to negotiate a way out of the crisis.

JANA said that the West had chosen to "discuss technical points" rather than to "work out a settlement under international conventions."

The JANA report, broadcast on Libyan Television, came as the U.N. Security Council prepared to toughen sanctions next week against Libya which has so far refused to hand over two men suspected of involvement in the bombing of a U.S. airliner over Scotland in December 1988.

The new sanctions, which could include a freeze on Libyan assets abroad, would come on top of an air and military embargo imposed in April 1992.

The U.N. has ordered Tripoli to hand over the two men to Britain or the United States for trial in connection with the bomb aboard a Pan

Am airliner which crashed in the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing a total of 270 people. Libya has refused to comply saying the men would not get a fair trial in either country.

France also wants Libya to cooperate in investigations into the bombing of a French UTA DC-10 in 1989 over Niger in which 170 people were killed.

In Cairo Saturday, Libya's permanent envoy to the Arab League, Ibrahim Al Bashari, said Libya would "not change its mind" even if sanctions were toughened. He said "hundreds of people" had already died as a result of the air embargo which had also "damaged industry and agriculture."

On Thursday, Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi said at a press conference in Egypt that Libya would not budge "whatever the sanctions."

Mr. Bashari said Libya would agree to "let the two suspects stand trial rapidly provided there were guarantees of a fair trial."

Security Council members are planning to meet on Libya Monday and the United States, Britain and France are expecting their resolution on the new sanctions to be approved then or on Tuesday.

Russia has accepted the resolution calling for an embargo on oil industry equipment and a freeze on Libya's overseas assets despite earlier concerns

it would prevent Tripoli from making payments on its multi-billion dollar debt to Moscow. The resolution would ban the sale to Libya of equipment for oil refining and exporting, but the freeze on assets would exempt income from oil and agricultural sales which are vital to the economy.

The draft resolution also seeks to reinforce the existing air embargo by calling on U.N. members to close all the Libyan Arab Airlines offices in their countries and reduce the personnel at Libya's diplomatic missions and consulates.

The United States, Britain and France proposed the draft text Oct. 1, but Russia, which holds veto power, raised concerns that it might jeopardise Tripoli's payments on its \$4 billion debt, mostly accumulated through arms sales and building contracts.

But the resolution Russia endorsed does not affect "Libya's duty scrupulously to adhere to all of its obligations concerning servicing and repayment of its foreign debt."

The text could be slightly modified during Monday's meeting, but Western diplomats are expecting to win the nine votes necessary for approval by the 15-member council.

China is expected to abstain, as are Pakistan, Morocco, Djibouti and Cape Verde.

Peres claims accord apparently close with Jordan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres claimed Saturday that Israel and Jordan were apparently close to reaching a peace agreement.

In a speech Saturday, Mr. Peres referred to the speculation of the past few days about a breakthrough in the talks with Jordan.

"I will not speculate about the rumours, but the reality is that... we are very near, apparently, to having an agreement," Mr. Peres said during a dinner for European Community (EC) officials.

Still, Israeli officials have expressed concern about whether Jordan can forge ahead with a peace treaty with Israel while the Israel-Syria talks remain deadlocked.

Mr. Peres' deputy, Yossi Beilin, said the actual problems between Israel and Jordan were "very marginal," but that Amman might be held back by Syria.

"If we are not talking about the question of whom (Jordan) is waiting for, but how much time it takes to solve the problems between (the Kingdom) and us, I can say we are talking about a very short period of time of weeks or months," Mr. Beilin said Friday.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had turned down Israeli overtures to hold secret peace talks.

"Syria refuses to hold any kind of discreet negotiations," he said in an interview with Spain's El Pais daily published Sunday.

"I have invited him (Assad) to (occupied) Jerusalem several times and he refuses to come or to receive me," he added.

Talks between Syria and Israel are stalled following 11 rounds of talks under the formal Middle East peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991.

Mr. Peres told Israeli Television Saturday Syria must change its tactics to attain peace in the Middle East.

"Syria has opted for a peace strategy, but it must change tactics and take appropriate measures: broaden the talks and clarify its conception of peace, especially on the security question," Mr. Peres said.

In an interview published Saturday in Cairo, Mr. Peres called for an early summit between Israel and Syria to build on "progress" made on bilateral issues.

"Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's tour (to the United States, France and Syria) and his meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad have led to progress in the Syrian-Israeli chapter."

Syria's ruling coalition said Sunday "partial solutions" would weaken the chances of peace in the Middle East.

Officials of the Baath-led central command of the National Progressive Front (NPF), chaired by Vice-President Zuhair Masharqa, said in a meeting that only a comprehensive settlement could bring peace to the region.

"The NPF believes that unilateral treaties and partial solutions would further complicate the existing situation and weaken the chances of peace in the region," a statement issued after the meeting said.

Arafat and EC leaders meet in Brussels today

BRUSSELS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat meets European Community (EC) foreign ministers in Brussels Monday to discuss aid for the occupied territories and prospects for broadening political reconciliation in the Middle East.

"This is a very important visit as it is the first occasion that the EC has had such an opportunity to discuss political and economic developments with the first representative of the PLO," a European Commission spokesman said Sunday.

"It shows that the historic events (the Sept. 13 PLO-Israel peace accord) are now having effects."

Mr. Arafat will also meet European Commission President Jacques Delors, European Parliament President Egon Klepsch, Belgium's King Albert and Belgian ministers and parliamentary leaders during his two-day stay.

The EC, which prides itself on being the world's major aid donor to the occupied territories, aims to make its involvement in the Middle East peace process one of the first subjects for joint action under the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

As well as pumping 90 million ECUs (\$102 million) of aid into the occupied territories this year, the commission says it has broad political backing from member states for a five-year development plan worth 500 million ECUs (\$565 million).

After the initial euphoria surrounding Israel's agreement to grant self-rule to the Gaza Strip and Jericho, a growing concern is that the peace agreement should be cemented by a rapid improvement in Palestinians' living conditions.

For that to happen, the EC and other aid donors want an efficient, open and honest administrative structure in the occupied territories to make

sure foreign aid is not wasted or siphoned off by corrupt officials.

The PLO's establishment of an economic council to serve this end received a sceptical welcome from international donors in Paris on Friday, and some diplomats expressed worries that Mr. Arafat wanted to continue old-style patronage politics.

Palestinian businessman Youssef Sayegh underlined such concern by announcing he was quitting the economic council for development and construction. He said it was packed with PLO politicians instead of relying on professional economists.

The commission spokesman said the EC could stress to Mr. Arafat that Middle East regional cooperation was essential to underpin peace initiatives.

The EC executive wants to push ahead simultaneously with new moves to boost cooperation with Israel and Arab countries so that none feel neglected in the rush of support for the Palestinians.

However, as often happens in the complicated negotiating world of the 12-nation EC, lofty aims to cooperate more deeply with other nations strike difficulty when they must be translated into concessions which may hurt individual EC states.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has accused the EC of dragging its feet over a plan to upgrade a 1975 trade and cooperation agreement. Israeli officials say the plan does not offer enough openings for its farm and industrial exports.

On a proposed partnership accord with Morocco, the EC ministers will try to reconcile protracted internal differences over issues ranging from orange and olive exports to labour mobility. Diplomats say those problems will not stop them endorsing the idea of a similar agreement with Tunisia.

U.N. appeals for end to fighting in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — The United Nations issued an urgent appeal on Sunday for an end to fighting between rival parties in Afghanistan's Islamic coalition government that has caused heavy casualties in the last week.

"I urgently appeal to the Afghan leaders involved in the hostilities to cease this senseless fighting," Sotiris Mousouris, special representative of the U.N. secretary general for Afghanistan, said in a statement in Islamabad.

Forces of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar launched a blistering attack on positions held by fighters of the Jamiat-e-Islami party of President Burhanuddin Rabbani in the Tagob valley northeast of Kabul last Monday, capturing the Jamiat district headquarters.

Local residents said at least 200 people, mostly civilians, had been killed or injured in a week of infantry battles in which thousands of rockets and shells have been fired. An exact death toll was not available.

Fighting was raging in the valley on Sunday, a spokesman for Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party said, adding that Jamiat forces began a fierce bombardment of the Hezb-e-Islami front line soon after dawn.

Hezb-e-Islami forces responded by firing missiles at a major Jamiat airstrip in the town of Bagram, north of Kabul on the road linking the capital with the ex-Soviet Union.

Mr. Mousouris said he issued the call for peace to try to boost the prospects for an official U.N. appeal for humanitarian assistance to help Afghanistan recover after 14 years of civil war. It will be formally launched this week.

"I am afraid that such fighting a few days before the launching of the appeal is harmful to the interests of the Afghan people and their leaders responsible for their welfare," Mr. Mousouris said.

A similar U.N. appeal in June 1992 for \$180 million raised just \$86 million from world governments and another appeal launched in January for \$138 million fell well below target.

Mr. Mousouris said that starting this week, international U.N. aid agency staff would be permanently represented in the capital, Kabul, for the first time since the withdrawal in August, 1992, because of fierce fighting between Hezb-e-Islami and Jamiat forces.

Officials and hospitals say more than 10,000 civilians were killed in previous inconclusive rounds of fighting between the two parties in and around Kabul after the guerrillas took power from the former communist government in April, 1992.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 killed in Algeria search operation

ALGIERS (AFP) — Two armed Muslim fundamentalists and a police officer died Saturday during two separate operations in areas east and south of the capital. Algerian security services said. Police killed one of the fundamentalists while looking for a kidnapped civilian in Ait-Rahmoun, east of Algiers. The kidnap victim was found alive. A policeman also died in the operation, the sources added. Another armed fundamentalist, identified as a Mahfoud Al Akrouf, was killed in a separate operation in Blida, 50 kilometres south of here. Police also found 13 hunting rifles and two automatic pistols in a hiding-place in the eastern town of Beni Sakher. In the past six days, security forces have killed 43 armed Islamic fundamentalists, the sources said. The security operations are part of a crackdown on a wave of terrorism which began after the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of a general election which the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win. Islamic fundamentalists recently kidnapped and killed a number of foreigners. The Armed Islamic Group, which claimed the abduction of three French consular officials rescued by police a week ago, said Wednesday it was giving foreigners in Algeria one month to leave the country or face "sudden death."

Left-winger held in Egypt on charges of spying

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian intellectual opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process has been arrested on charges of spying for China, his lawyers said Saturday. The state security council questioned left-winger Sami Mansur after his arrest on Friday, they said. An unidentified Chinese national has also been arrested. Mr. Mansur has written several books on the Arab-Israeli conflict and is an outspoken opponent of the Palestinian autonomy accord signed on Sept. 13 in Washington.

Oman gives \$15m to Lebanon University

MUSCAT (AP) — Oman on Saturday gave Lebanon \$15 million to help rebuild the science faculty at state-run Lebanese University, the official Omani News Agency (ONA) reported. Qais Al Zawawi, Oman's deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, and Fadi Shallah, president of the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction, here signed a deal for the grant. ONA said. Much of Lebanon was destroyed in the country's 1975-1990 civil war.

British politician to adopt Iraqi boy

LONDON (R) — A British politician who campaigns on behalf of Iraq's marsh Arabs said Sunday she was seeking to adopt a nine-year-old boy who was badly burned in an attack by Iraqi forces. Conservative Member of Parliament Emma Nicholson told the Sunday Times newspaper she and her husband had begun the process of adopting Amar Kanin, a boy she brought to Britain from southern Iraq for medical treatment 18 months ago. The boy was severely burned when what were believed to be napalm and phosphorus bombs were dropped on his village, killing nearly 300 people, including his family, the report said. He survived by running to a river and plunging in. "What follows from now on is simply paper work," Nicholson was quoted as saying. "Amar was given us much happiness. He has been a constant joy. When I brought him out of Iraq this was not in my plan but life has taken an unexpected turn." Nicholson found the boy at a "home for the wounded" in southern Iraq and brought him to Britain where he has had 12 operations so far on his ravaged face, paid for by an appeal fund. She had originally intended to find a foster family for him, the Sunday Times said.

Former minister elected premier of Chad

NDJAMENA (AFP) — Former Justice Minister Delwa Kassire Koumakoye was elected prime minister of Chad Saturday by the transitional parliament, official radio reported. Kassire Koumakoye, whose position still has to be confirmed by a decree from the Chadian president, Colonel Idriss Deby, was elected in the third round of balloting when he beat another former Justice Minister Elie Romba. The premier-elect won 37 votes against 13 for his opponents and five abstentions by members of the high transitional council. The vote followed the dismissal on Oct. 28 after a parliamentary no-confidence motion of the government of former Premier Fidel Moungar. Kassire Koumakoye, a 43-year-old father of 16 children, has already held several ministerial offices after being pulled out of the ranks of the civil service, where he was in administrative inspector general. A political veteran despite his age, the premier-elect founded his own party, the National Rally for Democracy and Progress. Educated in France, where he received a doctorate in law from the Sorbonne University in Paris, Kassire Koumakoye was a star athlete, and still holds the Central African record for the 3,000 metres steeplechase.

Thai general off to Saudi Arabia for talks

BANGKOK (AFP) — General Charan Kulavanijaya, the head of Thailand's national security council, has left on a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia for talks with security officials there, a news report said Sunday. "The meeting will be useful in that it (will) give us a chance to discuss international issues of mutual interest and to find ways to cooperate in security matters," Gen. Charan told the Nation newspaper before departing Saturday. He said areas of possible cooperation include the exchange of information and anti-terrorist operations. Saudi Arabia downgraded its Bangkok mission and stopped issuing visas to Thai workers after four of its embassy personnel were murdered in Thailand in 1989 and 1990. Bangkok this summer blamed international terrorists for the killings, and Saudi Arabia accepted the explanation. Also, a Saudi businessman was kidnapped and murdered in Bangkok in 1990. A senior Thai policeman was arrested in the case but it has yet to come to trial. In 1989, a Thai domestic employee stole \$20 million in jewelry from the palace of a Saudi prince. He was arrested and jailed on his return to Thailand, but not all of the jewelry was returned to the prince and much of what was turned out to be fakes. Eight Thai, all but one a policeman, are currently on trial on charges of embezzlement in connection with the case.

Gulf defence chiefs to meet in UAE

DUBAI (AFP) — The defence ministers of six Gulf Arab states were gathering in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to see the latest in air technology at an international show opening here Sunday.

They will meet in nearby Abu Dhabi on Monday to discuss proposals for a joint Gulf defence force.

Some 80 military and civilian planes as well as air defence systems are on display at the show in Dubai, where nearly 450 companies from more than 30 countries will compete for the growing Middle East arms market.

Defence ministers from Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and other countries will also be among the nearly 20,000 delegates coming to the five-day show, according to the organisers, the London-based Fairs and Exhibition.

"No, the show will not lead to an arms race. The doors are open for any country to buy arms from the East and the West through various ways,"

the UAE defence minister, Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, said.

"The show is a mere international commercial demonstration, where buyers meet sellers. It will be an opportunity for our officers to see new weapons as well as for other countries to examine equipment which suit their armies."

Organisers expect major deals to be announced at the show, the third biggest in the world. Military sources said some of the deals involved Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states but they had no further details.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait — have embarked on plans to bolster their armies since the end of the Gulf war. Their focus is on aircraft and long-range missiles to offset a troop shortage.

Sources said the six members were expected to spend more than \$5 billion a year in the next decade on such plans, most of which will benefit their

traditional arms suppliers, the United States, France and Britain.

The three countries are participating heavily in the Dubai show, sending more than 200 companies with their state-of-the-art aircraft — the U.S. F-generation, the French Mirage and the British Hawks and Harriers.

Cash-strapped Russia is displaying for the first time its Sukhoi 35 as well as 19 other advanced jets and it has expressed readiness to sell any of them and set up joint military production ventures in the region.

GCC defence ministers will meet in Abu Dhabi on Monday to discuss the project, worked out by their army chiefs last month.

"Creating a joint GCC defence force is among our priorities," said GCC Secretary General Sheikh Fahim-Ben Sultan Al Qassimi. "The main issue is it to develop our (10,000-strong) Peninsula Shield Force."

Aideed warns against U.S. patrols

MOGADISHU (AP) — General Mohammad Farah Aideed warned U.S. troops not to return to the streets of Mogadishu, saying Sunday that their presence could violate a four-week-old ceasefire with foreign troops.

"There is no need to deploy U.S. troops on the streets of Mogadishu. That may be provocative," General Aideed told a news conference. "I cannot see any reason for the massive deployment. Mogadishu is calm."

"Painful memories of U.S. massacres are still fresh in the Somali people. The U.S. government will bear the full responsibility" for any trouble that may break out, he said.

U.S. reinforcements — army troops on the ground, Marines still at sea — poured into Somalia after an Oct. 3 firefight. Their main mission is to protect U.S. and foreign troops, but officials say they also will keep roads open and

put pressure on bandits.

President Bill Clinton reiterated that position on Sunday, saying on NBC's "Meet the Press" that "our young soldiers there cannot be expected to just sort of bunker down and stay behind walls. That almost puts them at greater risk."

Gen. Aideed, accused of launching attacks that have killed dozens of peacekeepers since June 5, told the United Nations to get out of Somalia. He says the humanitarian effort has disintegrated into a bloody military campaign against his people with no chance of reconciliation.

"There are no negotiations, and I don't expect any in the future," said the man who controls south Mogadishu. The U.N. force "is responsible for the current problems. They are the biggest obstacles to peace."

He dashed the U.N.'s hopes that a newly formed Mogadishu security advisory com-

mittee could be a forum for improving the dangerous streets and setting up more substantive talks on the country's future. He said his faction, which attended the second meeting last week, could not show up any more.

In holding a news conference Sunday, Gen. Aideed made his most public appearance since late May. Until recently, he was the target of an intense search that has largely been called off with a change in policy here.

Officials of his faction led a convoy of journalists on a winding trip through the city's dusty back streets, stopping once to ensure they were not being followed. The destination was a compound where anyone entering was frisked.

When Gen. Aideed finally arrived about an hour later, he once again was dressed as the politician he wants to be, in a freshly pressed white shirt and dark pinstriped tie.

He was wearing a dark pinstriped tie.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ... Les Aventuriers de L'Espace
18:00 ... Oniscienos
18:30 ... News in French
19:00 ... The weekly sport magazine
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Delta
21:10 ... The House of Eliott
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... The Chancer

PRAYER TIMES

06:35 ... Fajr
05:54 ... (Sunrise) Duha
11:19 ... Dhuhr
14:19 ... Asr
16:45 ... Maghrib
18:04 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellfish, Tel. 816740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternavacca Church Tel. 62366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be sunny and warm, and winds will be southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, it will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 14 / 26
Aqaba 19 / 34
Deserts 11 / 28
Jordan Valley 21 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25.5, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad Othman 786384
Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul 898140
Dr. Ghaleb Zawahid 736011
Dr. Yousef Abdo 664916
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 627055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Suncinet pharmacy 637660
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

DEBID:
Dr. Ali Al Omari 272032
Aqaba pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Rajeh Saqr 901290
Khalid pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605880
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

Company 634381
RJ Flight Information 632020
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642417
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmabani 661714
Shmabani Hospital 669113
University Hospital 645945
Al-Muasher Hospital 667277
The Islamic, Abdali 664273
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajirah 777101
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112
Army, Marfa 891611
Queen Alia Hospital 6024090
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)82323
Zarga National Hospital (09)80362
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)86732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99090

HOSPITALS

FOR THE TRAVELLER

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:10 ... Senaa (RJ)
08:35 ... Damascus (RJ)
09:00 ... Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 ... Riyadh (RJ)
09:35 ... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:30 ... Beirut (RJ)
19:30 ... New Delhi (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:10 ... Senaa (RJ)
08:35 ... Damascus (RJ)
09:00 ... Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 ... Riyadh (RJ)
09:35 ... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:30 ... Beirut (RJ)
19:30 ... New Delhi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:25 ... Cairo (MS)
10:00 ... Khartoum (SD)
12:25 ... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
18:45 ... Dubai (EM)
01:10 ... Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Jordan Times

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Awesome task ahead

WHETHER JORDANIANS will turn out in strength today to elect their 12th Parliament will only be clear when balloting ends this evening. Indications are that the percentage of those who registered for this year's elections is almost identical to that of 1989, while the percentage of those who collected their cards to the registered is about six points lower this time than in the last elections. If we are to go by the trend of 1989, less than 40 per cent of the Kingdom's eligible voters will cast their ballot. Adding to this the number of all 18-year olds, the army personnel and expatriates, who are deprived of the right to vote in accordance with the current Elections Law, that would bring the percentage closer to 30 per cent.

This certainly is a very low percentage for a nation always thought of as highly politicised. Yet the people could not be blamed for the apathy projected in these elections. Many factors must have contributed to this state of affairs. Decades of curtailment of political association, a strong central government and four years of parliamentary life that changed little in the life of average Jordanians, have all contributed to the lack of interest in the elections.

However, this should not discourage us. What is needed in the next four years is a strong, credible and progressive government that would compensate for the expected conservative Parliament. In the absence of a strong opposition, the regime will have a free hand in pursuing peace and at the same time consolidating the foundations of progressive and enlightened democracy. Recent government promises of decentralisation must be translated into concrete grassroots and official action by allowing for the free election of local government. Laws, even those passed by the previous Parliament, should be liberalised and their application made more democratic. Economic mismanagement, including government monopoly on certain goods and subsidy of others, are impediments to economic growth that should be addressed and rectified. The role of the Follow-up and Inspection Department needs to be broadened and enhanced to guard against corruption and economic acrobatics that in the past had landed the country in half a decade of economic trouble.

His Majesty the King has chosen to remind everyone at a recent address to army officers that he is the head of the three branches of government: the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. The King, on many other occasions recently, reaffirmed this country's strong commitment to democracy. He chose to renew this pledge on the eve of the elections when on Saturday he received the founding members of the Centre for the Study of Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights in the Arab World and asserted his "full conviction that no nation can face the challenges, escape darkness, oppression and ignorance and attain enlightenment and knowledge without freedom, democracy and respect for human rights."

What His Majesty's next government and the Parliament should do is strive to translate that commitment into real action.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Rai's daily Sunday hailed a call by the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, on Arab states to end their differences as a very constructive step. Following in the footsteps of the president of the United Arab Emirates, the Emir of Bahrain has voiced concern over the divisions in the Arab World and urged Arab leaders to unite their ranks in the face of the crucial stage through which the Arab Nation is passing, said Bader Abdul Haq. The Emir's call, which followed a similar one by the ruler of Qatar, is a call on the Arabs to reinstate their collective action and patch up their differences so that they can deal with the common challenges facing their nation, added the writer. Citing the case of Iraq as one around which the Arab could end their differences, the writer said that the Iraqi people have suffered so much and for so long and it is in the power of the Arab countries to end this suffering and end the embargo that deprives the Iraqis of the basic necessities. The Arabs ought to terminate their sanctions on the Iraqi people and free Iraq from the shackles of poverty and deprivation as a first step towards resuming normal relations, demanded the writer.

ARAFAT HUAZI, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily tackled the question of Jewish settlements and their continued presence on Arab lands of Palestine. The Israeli prime minister has repeated to the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat the fact that the Jewish state can be no means accept a Palestinian state to be established in the liberated Arab lands, said Arafat HUAZI. The writer said that the Israeli government wants to keep the Jewish settlements in place and wants the Israeli forces to stay in order to protect these settlements, which means that the Israelis are determined to stay in the occupied Arab lands. The Israeli government criticised the PLO for suspending the talks at Taba claiming that the Palestinians are following tactics and stands that are not compatible with the PLO-Israeli agreement signed on Sept. 13, said HUAZI. But in fact, the PLO is taking a firm stand vis-a-vis the Israeli position and procrastinations and is determined to have full control over the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, as a first stage towards the full implementation of the agreement. He said there is danger in the presence of the Jewish settlements on Ar land and all efforts should be made to end their presence for good.

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanians head for their first multi-party elections since 1956 with mixed feelings; and some of them are still trying to determine which candidate to vote for.

People interviewed at random by the Jordan Times expressed their disappointment with the previous Parliament and said they did not expect anything to be accomplished by today's elected body.

A retired businessman criticised the new election formula of one-person, one-vote and said this system is going to weaken the election process and will not serve people's interests.

"I wonder what these new elections will achieve, said Abdul Aziz Zakout.

"I would have preferred to see elections limited to the political parties, because at least it will combine more than 100 people with similar ideas."

The 63-year-old man told the Jordan Times that he was out of the country during the period of voter registrations, but said that if he had registered he would vote for a

lawyer, because such a candidate would know how to argue his case in Parliament.

Zaki Abu Loughod, 65, a jewellery shop owner in Jabal Hussein, said he was willing to vote for any candidate regardless of his beliefs as long as he felt this candidate was willing to accomplish something for this country.

A retired businessman who had returned recently from Kuwait said he was going to vote for his neighbour because he said he preferred to vote for someone he knew rather than for a candidate he did not know at all.

Jordan University students who were interviewed by the Jordan Times, however, had negative feelings towards the old and the expected new Parliament as well, and most of them criticised the previous Parliament for not accomplishing anything for the Jordanian people and not serving Jordan's interests.

Hussen Abdul Fatah, a third year law student, said he was registered in the Second District and was determined to vote for Abdul Minem Abu Zant (a Muslim) who in 1989 "fulfilled all his promises."

Mr. Abdul Fatah maintained that he had faith that

candidate Abu Zant's top priorities are people's interests and demands.

A fifth year engineering student, with a temporary passport (could not vote), said even if he was able to vote he would not do so because he said the 1989 Parliament was a big disappointment for the Jordanian people.

"If I had the chance to vote, I wouldn't, and I would boycott it (the elections) because it is a waste of time," said the student, who preferred to remain anonymous.

He said the 1989 elections proved worthless, and the Parliament was just a name and served no purpose.

"I don't have any hope in this newly elected Parliament, especially that all the political issues are controlled internally and externally by the government anyway, and regular citizens don't have a say."

Other students shared the same feelings, and some had no interest in elections and considered election day as any other regular day.

"I am not going to vote because I never voted before, and I don't have any interest in it at all," said a graduate



By and large, university students appeared apathetic to Monday's elections (Photo by Aynsley Floyd)

student who was visiting the university.

An English literature student who is registered in Zarqa said she is debating whether to vote or not because she said she does not feel that the last Parliament has served a purpose, and she does not expect an outcome from this Parliament.

"I am still thinking about voting, but I doubt that I will

do it, and if I decide to vote I will vote for candidate Nadia Bushnaq," said the student who preferred not to be identified.

An Arabic literature student who also chose anonymity, blamed families for discouraging their family members from voting this year. She added that this generation cannot distinguish between what is right and what

is wrong.

"Most students I spoke to said they were not encouraged to vote because some did not know anything about elections or what is going on," said the third year student.

"Other students told me, 'what would this new Parliament do that the previous Parliament did not do?'"

Tafleh could be won by new faces

(Continued from page 1)

where, in Zarqa, as an independent Islamist.

The switch by Mr. Khalafat was apparently necessitated by his falling out with the Brotherhood over two issues. The first was over the former deputy's position on a corruption case involving a fellow citizen from Tafleh heard by the previous Parliament. The second was over Mr. Khalafat's stance on the Gulf crisis and war, which favoured Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf countries.

Dr. Akayleh, a former minister of education and the official Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate, remains a strong contender, even though there is a chance he could be upset by a surprise winner. Dr. Akayleh won the highest number of votes in this district in 1989 when he received 4,587 votes out of the 15,300 cast.

But then Dr. Akayleh, who is a prominent leader of the IAF and its assistant secretary general, had no-one running against him in his home town of Tafleh, a town which has 5,000 voters. Three other candidates are now contesting his seat and one in particular, fellow clansman Rafeh Saud, is said to have good chances of winning the majority of the votes in Tafleh.

Mr. Saud is affiliated to the Al Hadh Party. Although not officially running on a party ticket his close affiliation to the party and its leader, Karak candidate Abdul Hadi Majali, is "understood" by Tafleh voters.

IAF officials on Sunday sounded confident that Dr. Akayleh, who as minister of education stirred controversy by supporting segregation of sexes in Jordanian schools, would win his bid for reelection.

Incumbent Ghababsheh,

on the other hand, is not expected to do so well.

This is largely due to perception by his constituents that he did not do enough for them while a member of Parliament.

Mr. Ghababsheh's seat could well be filled by another leftist candidate, Mohammad Daoudieh, who is counting on winning votes from both the urban dwellers of Tafleh as well as from the rural population.

The chances of Mr. Daoudieh are said to be "very good" since he is perceived to enjoy influential links in Amman and good standing in the Tafleh area itself. Mr. Daoudieh, a daily columnist for Al Dustour Arabic newspaper, had worked as chief of the press department at the Royal Court before he quit to run for this campaign and take up his old job at the paper.

"They believe that he will be able to get things done for people in Tafleh," one local observer said.

"People here care about jobs, healthcare and services. So, they will elect doctors and not preachers," the observer added in obvious reference to the Islamists.

Dr. Mohammad Oran, another urban candidate who lost his bid for a parliamentary seat in 1989, is running again, but this time as secretary general of the United Arab Democratic Party, known as Waed. The party is a grouping of pan-Arab nationalists with liberal and left-of-centre leanings, which was originally founded by former minister Jamal Shaer in Amman.

Dr. Oran, who hails from a prominent family and is said to be a serious contender for one of the three seats, had insisted that the rotational leadership of the party be his on election day, according to fellow party members in Am-

man.

"Dr. Oran felt he had a better chance of winning a seat for himself and his party in Tafleh if on election day he could tell his constituents that he is head of a party," Dr. Shaer said.

But very few people are running on party tickets in Tafleh. "Parties are not popular yet; in fact they could hurt one's election chances," said candidate Daoudieh, who himself resigned from the Jordan Arab Democratic Party, a party he helped found several months before the campaign.

Nevertheless, a candidate of the Jordanian Arab Socialist Party, Ayed Amareh, who is counting on winning his clan's 2,500 votes is also running on a political platform.

Those who are opposed to the politicisation of the campaign have their opposition on the feeling that both the clan's clout and loyalties will only suffer if a rise of political parties sets in.

"It's either the tribe or the party, and people here prefer the tribe," said Najib Daoudieh.

"Half of the 17 candidates in Tafleh are rural tribal candidates, but only three have any real chance of getting elected. These are Dr. Akayleh, Mr. Saud, and a Mr. Salameh Odat, who hails from the town of Ain Al Baida (4,500 votes).

There is another clan candidate, Mahmoud Shabatat, who is challenging Mr. Odat for the town's big votes, and both could lose if the vote is split between them.

This leaves the race to be won by three of the five strongest candidates, Mr. Daoudieh, Dr. Akayleh, Dr. Oran, Mr. Saud and Mr. Amareh.

Ghazi Amryeen is Al Rai's correspondent in Tafleh.

Northern Jordan Valley up for grabs

(Continued from page 1)

votes.

In 1989, Abdul Majeed Shraydeh won with 7,628 votes which he gathered from his immediate relatives and those related to the Shraydeh family by marriage and lineage. The only other candidate from the same family, Yousef, an ophthalmologist, came off the last but one among the 18 candidates with a mere 376 votes.

This time around, the competition among the Shraydeh family is not going to be an easy one, since Abdul Majeed is running against his brother Yousef and his uncle Abdul Aziz, a senior IAF member. According to observers, a large percentage of the Shraydehs favour Abdul Aziz.

In addition to the fact that Abdul Aziz is backed by the IAF, his professional record as director of the Basheer and Zarqa hospitals and finally Zarqa Health Department before his resignation to run for elections are major elements expected to convince voters to cast their ballots in his favour, the observers say.

The immediate votes that Abdul Aziz appears to have secured are estimated at about 2,500 from the Shraydehs and their relatives by marriage, mainly the Zoubis, and Bani Yassin, from the middle villages which include Deir Abi Saed, Juffein, Kufi Alma, Ashrafyeh, Tibneh and Luggein.

The one Zoubi candidate, Abdullah, a bus driver, comes last on the list of both observers and voters, "mainly and simply because of his background," as one Kourah resident put it.

Abdul Aziz is also expected to win over some votes from the Bani Yassin family, whose votes are split among their own candidate

Ali, whose chances in winning are very slim and Abdul Aziz and Abdul Majeed Shraydeh.

Ahmad Al Khatib, the other IAF candidate also enjoys the support of his village Idetta, with 4,032 voters, as well as some sundry votes from the other southern villages such as Kufi Rakeh, Kufi Abeel, Beit Eidess and Kufi Awan, which have a total of 6,975 votes.

While the residents of Beit Eidess held a meeting late Sunday to decide on how they should be voting, the votes in Abeel and Kufi Awan are divided among the two IAF candidates, and Mohammad Khashtash, a retired army general, as well as Mr. Thuheirat.

The villages of the north, Sammour, Kufi Kefia, Zmal and Jeneen Sufa, with a total of about 6,000 votes are also divided between the three Shraydeh candidates, along with Mahmoud Keilani and Khaled and Ali Masa'deh.

Coming in third in the order of competition following the two IAF candidates is Mahmoud Keilani (Rababab'a), a doctor, who according to observers stands a very good chance of winning with the support of some villages in the north and south, unlike the other Rababab'a candi-

date, Mahmoud, who is a mosque preacher.

The chances of the two Masa'deh candidates, Khaled and Ali, according to observers, are not very promising.

In the Jordan Valley, where the number of voters is about 36,116, the seven candidates enjoy the backing of their families. One of them, Mahmoud Bishtawi, whose family boasts 4,000 votes, is counting on the support of Fatah sympathisers.

Incumbent Thuheirat is counting on the support of his and other families with which the Thuheirats had formed alliances in order to ensure their son a seat back in Parliament.

Another strong candidate is Hatem Ghazawi, who in 1989 got 3,798 votes and according to observers, who along with Mr. Bishtawi are using the strategy of undermining the achievements of the two former candidates in attempts to lure voters to their side.

Second-line runners are the Mohammad Rayahneh, Mithqal Zeinati, Mahmoud Abbadi and Mijhim Zbeidi, whose chances of winning appear to be slim.

Nasser Shraydeh is Al Rai's correspondent in Kourah and the northern Jordan Valley

LETTERS

For the record

To the Editor:

Lamis K. Andoni is mistaken or has been misled in her coverage of some of the First District candidates in the Jordan Times of Nov. 6, 1993.

First, Mr. Abu Jamous's first name is Hammad and not Hamed.

Second, the Da'aja tribe has three main tribes; over 500 members of these, comprising sheiks, members of various professions and local leaders who represent thousands of people, met on May 13, 1993, and unanimously elected Mr. Hammad Abu Jamous to contest the election as their only candidate. This was reported in Al Rai's newspaper some time later.

Mr. Brayseh received no vote at this gathering. Third, five months later, in October, Mr. Brayseh received the backing of 11 members of a small group calling itself "Sons of Da'aja tribe" and, therefore, he introduced himself as the official candidate only of this group and not of the Da'aja tribe. This was very clear in the statement they issued then. Therefore, the official and only candidate for the Da'aja tribes is Hammad Abu Jamous.

Hammad Abu Jamous, Amman.

Secretaries of all sorts

To the Editor:

While admitting that I enjoy reading E. Yaghi's columns, I found the one about "The infamous secretary" (Jordan Times, Oct. 21-22, 1993) disappointing.

Ms. Yaghi is, of course, entitled to her opinion, especially if she encountered secretaries like the one she describes. But it does not follow that all could be labeled as air-headed, caring only about their good looks.

It is an insult to all capable, hard-working secretaries in Jordan and elsewhere.

I, therefore, agree with Ms. Hadidi's comments, which, after thorough reading, in no way seem to accuse Ms. Yaghi of being unpatriotic because of her writing.

I believe we could take Ms. Yaghi's column as a piece of constructive criticism that could only benefit the society.

Parlette Moubarak, P.O. Box 3060, Amman.

Centrists, traditionalists likely majority

(Continued from page 1)

Independent Islamists

Amman: First District: Ali Faqir*, Theib Abdullah, Khalil Ibrahim Abu Touq, Ahmad Awaysheh.

Second District: Jamal Ma'lawani (Muslim Brother), Tayseer Ghosheh (Do'aa), Issa Abu Bakr.

Third District: Sami Najjar, Mazen Nasri Riyal.

Fifth District: Mohammad Kheir Kilani, Yusuf Abu Baker (Do'aa), Sixth District: Abdul Majid Al Aqash.

Irbid: Abdul Magid Ali Azzam, Ali Abdul Basal, Yusuf Khasawneh, Mohammad Alawneh*, Abdul Razzaq Theisbat.

Ajloun: Jamil Bani Ata, Mohammad Salim Momani, Balqa: Mohammad Awamleh, Abdullah Riyalat, Ali Adwan, Zarqa: Fouad Khalafat*, Ahmad Abu Q'oud, Abdul Baqi Jammo*, Ziad Mohammad Abu Mahfouz*, Karak: Yusuf Mubideen*, Jamal Saraireh*, Amin Mohammad Boush, Jamal

Abu Nowwas, Mtair Bustanji*, Atef Mohammad Boush*, Mahmoud Huweimeh*, Tafleh: Mahmoud Shbatat

* Former deputies

The IAF's candidates:

Amman:

First District: Abdul Aziz Jaber*

Second District: Hamzeh Mansour*, Abdul Min'em Abu Zant*

Third District: Ibrahim Kilani*

Fourth District: Mohammad Mahameh*

Fifth District: Hammam Sa'eed*, Mohammad Abu Fares*, Nimr Al Assaf,

Daoud Qojak*, Madaba: Abdul Hafiz Al Alawi*, Mohammad Khreihat Azaideh*,

Jerash: Sulaiman Raimoni,

Balqa: Abdul Latif Arabiyat*, Mohammad Aweideh, Na'el Masalheh,

Ibrahim Khreisat*, Zarqa: Theib Anis*, Bassam 'Emoush, Mohammad Al Haj*,

Kourah and Jordan Valley:

Abdul Aziz Shreideh, Ahmad Al Khatib,

Ajloun: Deifallah Momani,

Mafraq: Musa Shdeifar,

Northern Bedouins: Faris Madhi,

Irbid: Ahmad Kofabi*, Abdul Rahim 'Akour*, Hassan Al Tal, Kayed Al Omari,

Karak: Ahmad Kasasbeh, Adnan Al Majali, Abdullah Al Majali, Hussein Tarawneh,

Tafleh: Abdullah Alkaleh*, Ma'an: Badr Riati, Lafi Qaba'a, Mohammad Qaramseh,

* Deputies in the 1989-1993 parliament (16)

Number of IAF candidates expected to win			
Constituency	Min.	Max	Expected
Amman			
First District	1	1	1
Second District	1	2	1
Third District	0	1	0
Fourth District	0	1	0
Fifth District	2	4	3
Sixth District	0	2	1
Jerash	0	0	0
Balqa	2	3	2
Zarqa	3	3	3
Kourah	0	1	0
Ajloun	0	1	0
Mafraq	0	1	0
Northern Bedouins	0	0	0
Irbid	1	4	3
Karak	1	2	1
Tafleh	1	1	1
Ma'an	1	2	2
Total	13	29	19

UNRWA report welcomes prospects for change

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Ilter Türkmen expresses the hope that the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel on Sept. 13, 1993, "marks a turning point in the region and in the West Bank and Gaza in particular."

In his preface to UNRWA's Annual Report to the United Nations General Assembly released on Oct. 5 in New York, Mr. Türkmen says that "the real significance of this report lies in the fact that it underscores how vital it was to reach such an agreement." He also voices hope that "the report, which includes the period between 1 July 1992 and 30 June 1993 — covers an era which has gone forever."

During 1992, more than 45 per cent of UNRWA funds were devoted to education, Mr. Türkmen reported. Nearly 393,000 elementary and preparatory pupils were enrolled in the agency's 641 schools. About 4,500 students received trade, technical and vocational training in the agency's eight centres during the year. The agency took initial steps to upgrade the qualifications of teachers by replacing its existing two-year teacher training courses with a four-year university-level course.

Over 20 per cent of agency expenditure was on health. The effectiveness of UNRWA's primary health care services was confirmed by a recent UNICEF study which found that infant and child mortality rates among residents in refugee camps, most of whom receive health care from UNRWA, were significantly lower than for those living in towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Relief and social services absorbed about 13 per cent of total agency expenditure during 1992, Mr. Türkmen reported. By June 1993, 6.5 per cent of the refugee population agency-wide qualified for special assistance. Budgetary constraints forced the agency to freeze the number of refugee families receiving special hardship assistance, including urgently needed shelter rehabilitation, at the 1993 spending level. As a result of greater involvement by local communities, development programmes for needy refugees, especially women and disabled people, were expanded during the year.

Curfews, closures and plummeting local incomes meant that the demand for emergency food aid greatly exceeded the amount budgeted for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. At the end of March 1993, the West Bank and Gaza Strip were sealed off from Israel. The closure cut off some 130,000 Palestinians from approximately \$2.75 million per day in wages they had previously earned in Israel. UNRWA distributed its available stocks of flour to 39,000 needy families in the West Bank and 120,000 families in Gaza and issued an emergency appeal for imported staples such as flour, rice and sugar.

With many shelters built as temporary accommodation in

the 1950s and 1960s, the housing stock in refugee camps has deteriorated over the years, largely due to financial constraints. The commissioner-general said that UNRWA estimates that about 5,000 shelters of families receiving special hardship assistance in the occupied territory urgently need major repair or reconstruction. Acute housing needs also exist in Lebanon, especially for about 6,000 displaced Palestine refugee families. The agency only had funding to rehabilitate about 630 shelters throughout its area of operations during the year.

Emergency repairs were completed to about 1,150 shelters. The agency's efforts to assist the local Palestinian economy continued to expand during the year, Mr. Türkmen said. By the end of June 1993, about \$3.8 million had been disbursed in loans to over 180 small and medium-sized businesses run by Palestinians, mainly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Poor environmental health conditions in refugee camps in the occupied territory and Lebanon represent one of the most serious health risks to refugees living in the camps. During the year, UNRWA established a new department of environmental affairs in Gaza and international consultants carried out a detailed study on strategic options to improve environmental health in the eight camps and adjacent municipalities. In the West Bank, the agency continued the construction of internal sewage schemes in eight refugee camps. In Lebanon, UNRWA continued its efforts to raise some \$12 million to implement its provisional 1991 master plan to improve water supply and solid waste management in the camps.

UNRWA disbursed \$306 million in its regular and special programmes serving some 2.8 million registered Palestine refugees during calendar year 1992. Expenditure declined from \$308.1 million in 1991, despite rising demand for services due to natural population increase and deteriorating socio-economic conditions. At the beginning of 1993, UNRWA projected a substantial budget shortfall which forced the agency to take austerity measures to contain expenditure. These measures, as well as additional contributions from some donors, helped to reduce the deficit.

Mr. Türkmen thanked the donor countries for their spontaneous offers of financial support since the signing of the Declaration of Principles to enable UNRWA to meet the challenges during the initial phase of the interim period. At the same time, he pointed out that "the need for continued assistance for the Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and the Syrian Arab Republic should not be overlooked." The commissioner-general will present his report to the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee of the U.N. General Assembly which will consider the work of UNRWA during the third week of November.

Ajloun could be closest race

(Continued from page 1)

its members into a leading position in the polls today. Attempts to reach such consensus were said to be under way on Sunday evening.

"There are conservative voters, especially women, who may vote Deifallah into parliament," said one observer from Ajloun about the IAF candidate.

But the Momani split is by no means the greatest or the largest in the Ajloun district. In Kufranjeh, the town with the single largest number of votes in the district, seven candidates are vying for the town's 8,072 votes. One frontrunner in the race is former Deputy Annab. But many here complain that Dr. Annab did not do enough for his district and those vowed to back his relative Farouk Annab. Three cousins from the Freihat clan are also vying for the votes in Kufranjeh.

Although Ali Zgoul the only one Muslim candidate running in Anjara, he is expected to share the town's 5,715 votes with three Christian candidates, Wadi Zuwaideh, Jamal Haddad and Majed Haddad.

Two candidates from the Qudah clan in 'Ain Janna, with 3,727 registered voters,

are also expected to fight out a tough race with some observers believing Ahmad Qudah, one of the two candidates from the village, gaining the upper hand over this rival.

Two first cousins are running among the eight Christian candidates. Mazen Al Rahadi is running against Farah Al Rahadi to win some of their clan's 1,800 votes. Former Christian deputy for Ajloun Jamal Haddad is backed by a slightly smaller clan.

Other Christian candidates such as Naji Maqdash, Fahim Mazabreh and Farah Ayoub are all expected to win clan and other votes in Ajloun.

"Many of the Christian candidates are professionals, lawyers and doctors, and they have done well in their neighbourhoods; Muslims whom they served may also vote for them and this makes predicting a winner more difficult," said an observer in Ajloun.

According to natives of Ajloun and election observers in the district, the frontrunner in the race for the two Muslim seats, are Ahmad Qudah, Hassan Smadi, Mohammad Saleem Momani, Deifallah Mmmani, Ahmad Annab, Abdul Rafan Al Freihat, Maan Freihat and Jamil Bani Ata.

Few more snips for next four years: Foul play should be preempted; Islamist sides with women while another wants to sell his house; philosophical support to cap it all

TODAY JORDANIANS

will head to the polls to choose their representatives for the 12th Parliament. This column will therefore cap a series of snippets and tidbits about campaign '93, which we hope readers and candidates alike have enjoyed, with their full sense of humour intact. Sultan Hattab, a columnist for the Al Ra'i Arabic daily who is close to the prime minister, revealed to his readers yesterday an important piece of news. Voters who have been unable to collect their voting cards due to foul play by some candidates will be able to vote today if they can prove that they had initially registered for voting and never received the needed document. Mr. Hattab quoted Dr. Majali as saying. The columnist was also kind to tell us the story behind the prime minister's decision: "My friend, Dr. Abdul Rahman Mango, is tired of running after his lost vote and he feels that the computer people who told him to forget about voting have deprived him of his most important weapon in this era of democracy, so he will continue to look for his vote until he finds it. For moral considerations I will not name the candidates — one of them was a former deputy, and another served as a minister and deputy — who are facing cases in court over this issue. Some are most likely going to ask for a tribal peace offering after one family discovered that all their cards have been hidden by one of the candidates. The prime minister has been informed of these complaints — and he has already said that those



..... نحن معك

علي أبو ظبيان
أسبغة الرين

جمال علون
خالد الصالحى

سالم قبيلات
ديحول الصديلي

who have not picked up their cards or whose cards have been hidden by some candidates, can vote on Nov. 8 with an official proof of identity as long as their names appear on voter lists." This move by the prime minister has not been announced officially, as far as our information tells us. But it augurs well for our elections: An important tool of democracy is being returned by the government to the people from those who tried to steal it.

ISLAMIC ACTION Front candidate Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu Zant must be really worried about reelection in his Second District or else he would not have resorted to such a dramatic move as to advertise the sale of his house in Arabic papers. In an ad published in local dailies yesterday, Sheikh Abu Zant placed his usual "Vote for me" advertisement, only to find right under it the following ad also: "Hurry before it is too late. Candidate

Sheikh Abu Zant announces that he wants to sell his house to pay his debts which he had to shoulder (as a result of the campaign, presumably). The house's features: (1) The shortest house opposite Al Hashlamoun Mosque (2) The house is a basement located below street level." Attractive the house is not, but the message is powerful. By the way, Sheikh Abu Zant got the highest percentage of votes any candidate achieved in 1989 and

Campaign focused little on real issues

(Continued from page 1)

almost two weeks into the legal period allowed for campaigning, and by its initial handling of the PLO-Israel deal.

With the absence of other effective mechanisms of communications such as television, which is legally banned from promoting any political group or airing political commercials, rallies were the venues through which the 651 candidates in 1989 attacked the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-prescribed economic adjustment programme and Israel and demanded more democracy and respect for human rights.

This year, campaigning took place mainly through banners that hung above electricity poles and shops, and private visits and meetings, until the Higher Court of Justice revoked the ban on public rallies on Sept. 28 and the campaigns picked up steam.

After receiving permission to hold the rallies, independent leftist and Islamist candidates invited their followers to public meetings that injected some life into the campaign.

The mainly well-attended

the restoration of Parliament as the means to end economic hardships and stamp out alleged government corruption, voters, candidates and the government which was charged with supervising the elections in 1989 contributed to a lively election campaign in which hard economic and political issues took prominence.

Only 555,398 out of 877,000 voters who collected their voting cards (out of a total of 1.2 million registered voters) participated in the 1989 elections but the low turnout was attributed to the scepticism with which some voters greeted the then new process.

Four years after, a higher voter turnout is expected, but a lower enthusiasm for the elections has already been demonstrated.

Islamist and leftist parties hold the government responsible for their failure to address issues as weighty as the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord, the Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace negotiations and the future of the democratic process itself.

They contend that the government kept them at bay from their constituencies by banning public rallies until

rallies, however, were seen to have done little to help the divided left improve its chances at the polls.

The 36 Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidates told supporters at their rallies that they were the target of a campaign aimed at reducing their representation at the House but their fiery speeches are not expected to guarantee more than 20 of them success in their bid for election.

The new electoral rules are likely to work to the disadvantage of the IAF, which can no longer rely on the organisational power that helped the Muslim Brotherhood, the core of the IAF, carry 23 of its members and 10 of its supporters and sympathisers to the House in 1989 through striking deals and alliances with other candidates.

Observers say the uncertainty about holding the elections that followed the signing of the PLO-Israel accord led some sectors of society to question the automatic continuity of the country's democratic orientation. That too, they say, dampened enthusiasm for the campaign.

Others say the campaign did not have the fervour that the 1989 electoral race had because the fiery slogans that magnetised the public then have lost their appeal after four years of parliamentary practice that left many promises unfulfilled.

The issues themselves are different this time around, observers say. "Things today are cooler than they were four years ago," said one observer.

Observers say the electorate is no longer receptive to unrealistic slogans which it has learned Parliament cannot deliver. The candidates realised the changes and thus addressed localised yet real needs that pertain to the daily lives of the citizens.

Others insist, however,

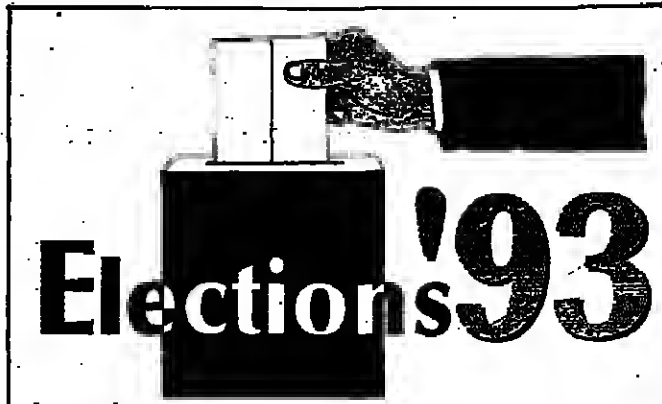
that the absence of major political issues from the electoral race was a direct result of the initially strongly expected decision to postpone the polls, which was partly based on fears that the election campaign would turn into a referendum on the Oslo accord.

These fears did materialise, however, and the electoral campaign ended with the peace process in general overshadowed by talks about services.

The peace process is also expected to be minimally affected by the 12th Parliament and the government is expected to proceed with its talks with Israel with less noise than it had to listen to from the previous Parliament.

By virtue of its likely composition, the House is expected to leave the government in charge of its foreign policy at what most observers describe as a crucial time in the history of the nation.

The debate that deputies would launch, observers say, would be similar to the one that candidates raised in the run-up to the election day.



appears to be headed for an encore this time too.

PERHAPS THE only real breakthrough in the Nov. 8 campaign is a column published by independent Islamist columnist Mohammad Sbeithi yesterday. Under the heading "Men... ensure that women reach Parliament," Mr. Sbeithi said that he attended a meeting during which the two Circassian candidates for the Third District discussed their opinions and aired their views on the political, social, and economic issues in Jordan. "I want to say that the two candidates enjoy very high political maturity and incredible abilities for dialogue and discussions. Every one of them proved that she follows current affairs, whether political or economic." The other incredible part in his column is: "We men have to admit that we do not like to see a politicised woman in our Parliament, especially if she enjoys a higher level of political maturity and ability than the men. We have to admit that we hate to see women in Parliament demanding that the Civil Status Law be changed because we feel it takes away from our hegemony over them... We hate to see women being consulted because we enjoy being the only consultants and we want women only to obey." To Mr. Sbeithi, who joined the Islamic Action Front as a founding member before resigning in protest over its "undemocratic favouritism towards the Muslim Brotherhood Movement," one must raise his or her hat immediately.

WHOEVER SAID sports

cannot help in politics? Fahd Al Bayaari, a mainstream Palestinian candidate for the Second District of Amman, published an ad yesterday asking the masses of Al Wihdat Club to vote for him. Mr. Bayaari is the president of this club, which has stood as a symbol of Palestinian nationalism for the majority of the Palestinian refugees residing in Al Wihdat camp. But it is not actually all apolitical, because Mr. Bayaari is a well-known Fateh supporter and his candidacy is seen by many politicians as a test of Fateh's influence in the camp. And if it means dipping into football memorabilia to support the cause, he would not hesitate to do it. Would anybody?

AND BEFORE anyone screams about "foreign intervention" in local politics, Fakhri Kwar, one of the frontrunners for the Christian candidate in Amman's Third District, has all kinds of foreigners philosophising about Jordanian elections. In a letter published as an ad in local papers by the Jordanian Philosophy Society, Mr. Kwar appears to have received the endorsement of people from Egypt, the United States, Iraq, Denmark, Holland and Canada. The letter from the head of the Philosophy Society, and addressed to Mr. Kwar, announces that the Preparatory Committee for the International Union of Arab Writers and Thinkers "announces its support for you in your current parliamentary election campaign." Only philosophical intervention will not matter.

Nermeen Mnrad

King, premier reaffirm vow

(Continued from page 1)

Polling centres, mostly government schools, open their doors at 7 a.m. They close at 7 p.m., but district governors could use their discretion to extend the deadline for a maximum of two hours.

Vote counting starts at specific locations set aside in each of the eight governorates immediately thereafter. First results are expected after midnight, and the minister of interior is expected to hold a press conference Tuesday afternoon in formally announce the results.

Journalists who possess special cards issued by the Ministry of Information will have access to most of the polling and vote-counting centres.

Television and radio are expected to provide a round-the-clock update on the voting process and results.

Jordan Television and radio will start transmission from 18 radio and 12 television centres in different parts of the Kingdom as soon as the polling stations open and stay on the

air until the formal results are announced. Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar said.

Dr. Abu Nowar was speaking during a visit to a press centre set up at the Royal Cultural Centre to offer services to the international media covering the elections. In addition to the centre, information will also be available at the Ministry of Information Press Office at the Inter-Continental Hotel, he said.

Candidates wound up their campaigns Sunday, with last-minute appeals to the voters with huge ads in the newspapers and new banners and posters put up at key places and going around visiting voters in "down to earth approach" to the electorate.

Reliable estimates indicate that more than JD 40 million were spent by the candidates in their frenzy to win the hearts and minds of the people through massive advertising, leaflets, posters, lavish campaign rallies and paying support staff.



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Police disperse small Moscow protest to mark revolution

MOSCOW (R) — Police dispersed a small protest by Communists in Moscow Sunday but there were no serious demonstrations in the city to mark the 76th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, once the holiest of Soviet holidays.

Around 300 demonstrators waving red flags gathered near central Ostyabinskaya Square but were almost immediately pushed back into an entrance of a nearby underground railway station.

"Disperse, or we will use tear gas and water cannon," police using megaphones told the mainly elderly demonstrators, who responded by shouting "fascists."

Interfax news agency said several people were detained for public-order offences.

One of the demonstrators told the crowd there would be a meeting in Moscow's northern Medvedkovo Forest, outside the city boundaries, later in the day to mark the anniversary.

All protests in the capital had been banned Sunday in the wake of an armed rebellion by parliamentary supporters against President Boris Yeltsin last month in which 150 people died.

A handful of people waving red flags gathered by the entrance to Red Square but were prevented by police from going any further.

Security Minister Viktor Yerin said Saturday security forces would crush any disorder, saying he had received information about possible

attempts to destabilise Moscow and other towns.

Interfax said small groups of Communists had demonstrated in the Siberian cities of Chita, Krasnoyarsk and Yakutsk.

The biggest Communist grouping had asked its members to hold any rallies or demonstration to prevent provocation.

Nov. 7, the anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, was traditionally the day when Soviet soldiers, tanks and missiles poured through Red Square in a show of military strength.

But with the collapse of the superpower, the day has lost its significance. Shops and offices have been allowed to choose whether to treat the day as a holiday or not.

Some Communist and nationalist opposition groups plan to challenge Yeltsin supporters in elections for a new parliament on Dec. 12.

A spokesman for the Central Electoral Commission said Sunday that 21 Russian political parties and blocs had passed the first major hurdle to take part in the elections.

He said they had presented required lists of 100,000 signatures supporting their candidates to the commission by the deadline of midnight Saturday.

They include Russia's Choice; the bloc supporting President Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Communist Party and several other opposition movements.

"We now have five days to check the signatures and then

we will issue a final list of those parties and blocs who will be allowed to take part," the spokesman said.

The only surprise was that the August Bloc of dollar millionaire businessman Konstantin Borovoi failed to gather enough valid signatures.

A statement by the Bloc said that although it had a total of 183,000 signatures, about half of them had been obtained illegally, Interfax News Agency said.

Parties and blocs were only allowed to obtain individual signatures on the street, but Mr. Borovoi said he was sure every party except Russia's Choice had cheated in the way they compiled their lists.

Mr. Yeltsin said Saturday he wanted to serve out his term until 1996, apparently changing his mind about holding presidential elections next June.

Interfax quoted him as saying he would not stand again in 1996. "Everybody knows how many blows of fate I have already suffered. It is too much for one man," he said.

The apparent reluctance of Mr. Yeltsin to put his mandate to the test yet again could be seized upon by opposition groups which accuse him of dictatorial methods.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told an international television audience Saturday that President Yeltsin should keep his promise and hold presidential elections in June.

Mr. Gorbachev, interviewed

oo CNN's Larry King Live, was asked about reports from Moscow that Mr. Yeltsin intended to serve until his term ends in 1996.

Mr. Yeltsin did not cancel a decree setting early presidential elections for next June. But remarks he made Saturday in Moscow suggested he was counting on a new-style parliament, to be elected on Dec. 12, to support his bid to remain in office.

"I favour the presidential mandate being used to the full, until 1996," Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling Russian media bosses at a Kremlin meeting.

Mr. Gorbachev told interviewer King:

"After he (Yeltsin) said that, I understand that to the evening there was an interpretation... given to that by his chief of staff... he said the president was perhaps misunderstood, that he might perhaps decide that it is for the new parliament to decide," Mr. Gorbachev said through an interpreter.

"My viewpoint is that he should do as promised, I think he will only win as a result of keeping his promise."

Asked whether Mr. Yeltsin would win a presidential election, Mr. Gorbachev said it was too early to say but that much would depend on the government's economic policies.

"This depends on how things evolve," he said "and what kind of policy will be followed by the government after the parliamentary elections. A lot will hinge on that."

Mr. Gorbachev, interviewed



Moscow riot police arrest a demonstrator after a rally to mark the 76th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution (AFP photo)

Croats, aided by Serbs, fend off Bosnia army attack; U.N. troops freed

TISOVCI, Bosnia (Agencies) — Three Swedish U.N. soldiers taken hostage by Serb forces were released Sunday after a tense standoff near Vares in central Bosnia, a U.N. officer in the area said.

Major Hakan Birgir, commander of the Nordic Battalion in Vares, told Reuters that Serb forces had abducted the three soldiers Sunday morning at a checkpoint near Dastansko, south-east of Vares. "Everyone is safe," Maj. Birgir said.

Before the release, Swedish soldiers at Dastansko fired 20 mm cannon rounds repeatedly, which they said were aimed at warning nearby forces. One Swedish officer appealed over his radio for air support, and aircraft appeared twice, screaming low over the area.

Croats, aided by Serbs, fend off Bosnian army attack

The Three Swedish U.N. peacekeepers were abducted Sunday by unknown assailants

as they apparently tried to calm a messy Muslim-Croat-Serb confrontation north of Sarajevo.

The Swedes were seized after a Serb or Croat officer was wounded by a rocket from shots fired by Nordic peacekeepers, said Swedish spokesman Jonas Mauritzon in Stockholm.

The U.N. troops were moving in after up to 300 Bosnian Croat soldiers received help from their former Serb foes Saturday to stage off an attack by Muslim-led government troops at Dastansko.

Dastansko is about three miles (five kilometres) east of Vares, a strategic town 35 kilometres north of Sarajevo that fell to Muslim-led government forces last week.

Serb forces control the territory east of Dastansko and weighed in with artillery to help the Croats, said U.N. peacekeepers' spokesman Lt. Col. Bill Aikman in Sarajevo. Fighting subsided overnight.

Col. Aikman said. On Sunday, the Croats sought a meeting with their foes under the auspices of U.N. forces, said Squadron Leader David Fillingham in nearby Kiseljak.

At least 5,000 refugees from Vares are now housed in eight schools in Kiseljak. A further 5,000, most of them Croats, are still in forests in government-controlled territory east of Vares, Squadron Leader Fillingham said.

A top U.N. refugee official, Nicholas Morris, was expected in Kiseljak later Sunday to assess what could be done for the latest victims of Bosnia's war.

The Bosnian government, whose capture of Vares was a rare triumph in its effort to break the 19-month siege of Sarajevo, wants to try to persuade the mostly Croat refugees to go back to their homes in the town. Extremist Bosnian troops looted and burned in Vares last week, but Bosnian police reportedly now have them under control.

Americans know exercise is good — but so what?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans know they need to exercise more for good health. But a new survey shows they have no intention of doing it.

They're "too tired, too lazy, too busy," said Phillip Wiethorn of the president's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

"Exercise has to be a habit, not, 'maybe I'll do it this week.' We don't say, 'Maybe I'll brush my teeth this week.'"

President Bill Clinton asked the council to find ways to get Americans off their couches and moving around. But first, it had to figure out why so many adults — an estimated 60 per cent — are sedentary. So it surveyed 1,018 sedentary Americans last month and found they do have time for some physical fitness — they just don't believe they do.

Sixty-four per cent of those polled said they would like to exercise more because they know it's healthy, but say they can't find the time. They said they had fewer than 10 hours of leisure time every week. But 84 per cent watch television at least three hours a week, meaning they have time for physical activity but are too lazy or prefer television, the survey concluded. And 41 per cent said they weren't likely to improve anytime soon. Regular exercise lowers cholesterol and blood pressure and helps thwart heart disease and other illnesses. Nobody knows how much disease a sedentary lifestyle actually causes, but the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the nation spends \$5.7 billion annually on medical care and lost productivity for sedentary people with heart disease alone.

10-year-old girl gives birth in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE (AFP) — A 10-year-old girl has given birth to a healthy baby girl, becoming Costa Rica's youngest known mother, hospital officials said.

The baby, born by Caesarean section Friday, weighed 2.4 kilograms (5.3 pounds) and was 47 centimetres (18.5 inches) long, Doctor Lucy Sandoval said. Authorities believe the girl, who comes from a large homeless family in the capital area, was raped. They are investigating her case.

Psychologists and social workers concerned about the emotional impact of childbirth and motherhood at such an early age reportedly are working with the young mother.

Doonesbury 'blackened' in fire region

LOS ANGELES (R) — Major newspapers in southern California announced Saturday they will not run six new Doonesbury cartoons because of their "inappropriate, humour" in dealing with the California fires. The newspapers include the three largest publications in the region: the Los Angeles Times, the Orange County Register, and the San Diego Union-Tribune. Cartoonist Gary Trudeau, who created the popular comic strip which is run in newspapers all over the world, depicts a Malibu couple who panic when they think their neighbour's house has caught on fire, but the blaze turns out to be coming from an overheated barbecue grill. Barbecuing is a quintessential part of life in southern California, which enjoys year round sunshine. Los Angeles Times Associate Editor Narda Zaccchino said old Doonesbury strips would be run next week "because the humour in the (new) strip does not seem appropriate at this time." A wildfire in Malibu which started Tuesday killed three people and destroyed 350 homes, many of them multimillion dollar mansions, including those belonging to actors Sean Penn and Ali McGraw.

Man kills son, feeds him to crocodiles

HARARE (AFP) — A peasant from Zimbabwe's eastern border town of Mutare killed his 19-year-old mentally ill son and threw him into a crocodile-infested river, police said Sunday. In a statement, police said the 46-year-old man confessed to having recently killed his son, and with the help of his wife carried the body in an empty grain bag and left the corpse in the local Save River. Police have arrested the man, who is thought to have committed the act because he wanted to conceal his son's mental illness.

N. Zealand in political crisis after poll

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's political system was plunged into crisis Sunday after a general election left the country with a lame-duck government that will not know for at least 10 days if it can remain in office.

Saturday's hung parliament was the worst possible result for New Zealand's financial markets, which appear set for a major sell-off of the New Zealand dollar and stocks when markets open Monday morning.

"Of all the realistic potential outcomes that we were contemplating, this clearly is the worst case outcome because it creates both short and long term uncertainty," said investment strategist Girol Karacoglu.

Political columnist Colin James said: "It's a parliament that cannot be dominated by any one party... I think Jim Bolger's a lame duck."

Prime Minister Bolger told reporters he would hold a weekly cabinet meeting Monday as usual, but made the unusual confession that it would not take any decisions.

His conservative National Party won 49 of parliament's 99 seats in Saturday's election, losing 20 seats, while the centre-left Labour Party won 46, leaving the balance of power — four seats — in the hands of two minor parties.

New Zealand politics will be effectively frozen for about 10 days until some 200,000 special votes, those cast before election day or by expatriates, can be counted.

Previous elections have seen seats change hands because of special votes.

Saturday's election was so close that several seats were won by just a few hundred votes and they could easily change once special votes are included.

Mr. Bolger appeared to adapt quickly Sunday to his new role as caretaker prime minister, agreeing New Zealand's political map had changed dramatically.

"It's very obvious that there's no party with a majority in parliament. What I want is to assure the world that New Zealand is a stable democracy. They shouldn't panic," he said in remarks apparently aimed at financial markets.

Mr. Bolger telephoned other party leaders late Saturday and Sunday to explore the possibility of working together, but he excluded the possibility that he would seek to form a coalition government.

"All four parties have different perspectives on issues. But no party is going to get its way on everything now," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hosokawa to pass reform bills soon

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has said he intends to push key political reform bills through the lower house of parliament before he leaves for the United States on Nov. 19, according to reports from Japanese journalists travelling with him. Mr. Hosokawa made his remarks to the reporters at a hotel in the ancient South Korean capital of Kyongju Saturday night. He was in Kyongju for a two-day "get-to-know-you" meeting with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam which ended Sunday. To achieve an early passage of the bills, Mr. Hosokawa said he was ready to talk this week with Yohsei Kono, chief of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), to meet halfway on bills submitted by both sides, reporters said. Mr. Hosokawa, due to attend a meeting of leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Seattle Nov. 19-20, staked the future of his government on getting the reforms into law by the end of the year.

Police station attacked in N. Ireland

BELFAST (AFP) — Assaults suspected of being IRA militants launched a gun and mortar attack on a police station in the south of Northern Ireland Sunday, causing extensive damage but no injuries, police said. Police said the attack, at Caledon in County Tyrone, bore all the hallmarks of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, which regularly targets Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) forces. The attackers first opened fire with machine guns on the post at 05:30 a.m. (05:30 GMT), then launched a mortar shell, before fleeing in a van, police said. The police station is a few miles from the border with the Irish Republic. The mortar missed its target, causing serious damage to a building attached to a Presbyterian Church. Windows were shattered in several neighbouring buildings. Police then cordoned off the village, and evacuated several houses, while explosives experts launched a search for any other devices. None was found.

Burundi leader leaves hiding

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi's Prime Minister Sylvie Kinigi has left the French embassy 18 days after a collapsed coup to restore order in her country swept by tribal massacres. Ms. Kinigi, the highest surviving official of the Oct. 21 coup which plunged the central African country into turmoil, spent Saturday night at her official residence in the capital where French soldiers were sent to guard her, officials said. Other members of her cabinet, six of whose ministers were killed in the coup staged by army officers, set up operations for safety's sake at a resort on Lake Tanganyika on the frontier with Tanzania, French embassy sources said. "There are several French soldiers detailed to the prime minister. Her safety is considered critical," an embassy source said. "All the other ministers are also safe." Aid officials said that despite the collapse of the putsch, the deeply divided country was still caught up in bloodletting between majority Hutus and the minority but dominant Tutsis who control the army. The Brussels-based medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said its medical workers had seen entire villages burning and rivers full of rotting bodies.

Manila, Muslim rebels sign truce

JAKARTA (AFP) — The Philippine government (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) signed a ceasefire agreement Sunday at the end of two weeks of formal peace negotiations here. MNLF leader Nur Misuari and GRP panel chief Manuel Yan signed the 1993 interim ceasefire agreement which takes effect immediately and will remain valid for the duration of peace talks, but could be extended if unanimously agreed. The signing of the ceasefire agreement, together with that of a memorandum of agreement and the initialing of an executive summary of the talks, ended 13 days of formal peace negotiations, the first between the two sides. "Tonight's occasion is a culmination of the first part of our journey through the tortuous path to peace," Mr. Misuari said after the signing. Yan agreed, but warned: "We have a long way to go."

Clues found in hunt for Australia killer

SYDNEY (AFP) — A U.S.-made Ruger .22 rifle has been identified as the weapon used in the murder of the seven victims of the serial killer sought in Australia's biggest murder hunt, reports here said Sunday. Although five are known to have died of stab wounds and forensic tests are likely to show the last two were also stabbed, British backpacker Caroline Clarke, 22, was also shot in the head 10 times, police sources have said. Reports in several newspapers say telltale markings on shell casings found near the scene of her murder in the Bellanglo Forest indicate the use of a Ruger, of which there are 600 registered owners in New South Wales. Although police refused Sunday to confirm or deny the reports, a number of local registered owners have told reporters their rifles were seized by police for ballistics tests in recent days.

Georgian rebels may turn to guerrilla warfare

TBILISI (AFP) — Georgian forces won a major victory over rebels led by Zviad Gamsakhurdia when they captured his west Georgian stronghold Zugdidi, but his resistance might not be over.

There was rejoicing here Sunday in the Georgian capital. For both government forces and President Eduard Shevardnadze's political supporters, the troops entry into Zugdidi Saturday was the symbolic victory they had sought for weeks.

It appeared to end the political ambitions of Mr. Gamsakhurdia, Georgia's former president who was ousted by a military junta in January 1992 and had hoped to return to power.

But in opting to flee Zugdidi almost without a fight, Mr. Gamsakhurdia and his forces wanted not only to spare the population who had backed them faithfully for two years, but also to give themselves a chance to withdraw with their arms and equipment to neighbouring Abkhazia.

The North denies any nuclear military aspirations but has nevertheless defied U.N. resolutions calling for inspections and may face international sanctions if it persists in denying access.

Mr. Hosokawa said Japan would not seek to establish relations with the North unless that country renounced its nuclear quest.

Mr. Hosokawa said he deeply repented "the immoral behaviour and apologise(d) for the unbearable pain and sorrow suffered by the people of the Korean peninsula" during Japanese occupation.

Japan annexed Korea in 1910, extinguishing the 500-year-old Yi imperial dynasty and imposing harsh colonial rule that ended only with Japan's World War II defeat in 1945.

South Korea and Japan normalised ties in 1965 but older Koreans still have bitter memories of the colonial period.

President Kim told the news conference he was deeply impressed by Mr. Hosokawa's frankness, which he said was unlike the attitude shown by his predecessors.

"Prime Minister Hosokawa and I have agreed to endeavour to overcome the problems of the past through a rational assessment of history, and to pave the way for truly becoming close and cooperative neighbours," Mr. Kim said.

making a sacrifice of the national interests in league with outside forces," the newspaper added.

The United States and North Korea are continuing informal talks in New York after earlier rounds of high-level contacts collapsed over the nuclear issue.

The Sunday Times reported that the United States has drawn up plans for a missile attack on North Korea's secret nuclear facilities.

"There have been a series of crisis meetings in the Pentagon and in the White House to discuss contingency plans for the defence of South Korea, including a limited strike on the North's nuclear facility with cruise missiles," the paper said, citing no sources.

It did not say where the cruise missiles would be fired from.

On Saturday, a senior Pentagon official who asked to stay anonymous, spoke of fears that North Korea might become so alienated by its isolation that it could launch an attack on South Korea.

The official said 70 per cent of North Korea's 1.1 million strong armed forces, were presently in the border region between Pyongyang and the demilitarised zone, reflecting an increase in troop concentrations in the area over the past three years.

Poll: ANC to crush election opponents

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The African National Congress (ANC) is set to overwhelmingly defeat South Africa's ruling National Party (NP) in the country's first non-racial election next April 27, the Sunday Times reported.

Citing an independent opinion poll, the newspaper said that providing the ANC can get its voters to the election booths, it could expect to win 70 per cent of the vote.

The NP would come a distant second with 13 per cent and the conservative Freedom Alliance — comprising, among others, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and the pro-apartheid Conservative Party — would be close behind with 11.5 per cent.

The opinion poll, conducted by Integrated Marketing Research, also shows that support for President F.W. de Klerk among black voters was less than two per cent.

NP support among its white electorate had plummeted to 40 per cent and a significant portion of coloured (mixed-

race) and Indian voters, regarded as prime targets by the NP, are still unsure about whom they should support.

The Liberal Democratic Party, the headline Pan Africanist Congress, the South African Communist Party would all score between 0.6 per cent and 2.4 per cent.

On the basis of the poll, according to the newspaper, and assuming a voter turnout of 80 per cent, the NP and the alliance would be able to claim four seats each in the proposed 30-member cabinet of national unity.

The ANC, with 60 per cent of the vote, would qualify for 19 cabinet posts. ANC leader Nelson Mandela would become president and the organisation would be able to appoint a deputy president and claim a two thirds majority in the cabinet.

The NP, as the second largest party, would have Mr. De Klerk serving as other deputy president and four cabinet posts. The alliance would have

four cabinet posts. Democracy negotiators last week agreed on a government of national unity, with a president and at least two deputy-presidents, which would serve the country for five years after the April 27 election.

Another poll revealed that 80 per cent of South Africans were likely to vote, according to the newspaper.

A survey of the International Republican Institute revealed that a total of 88 per cent of blacks, 83 per cent of whites, 69 per cent of coloureds and 63 per cent of Asians are likely to vote.

If this was borne out in the election, the newspaper said, it would clearly favour the ANC with its high degree of support among blacks.

Other findings were that 57 per cent of the electorate had already made up their minds about who they would vote for while nine per cent said they would not vote. This means that as much as 33 per cent of potential voters had not made up their minds.

Japan, S. Korea open new chapter of friendship

KYONGJU, South Korea (Agencies) — Japan and South Korea Sunday exorcised the spirit of mistrust from their relations, pledging friendship and renewed bids to solve a row over North Korea's nuclear programme through dialogue.

Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam ended two days of talks during which Japan offered its deepest apology yet for colonial misdeeds in Korea and Seoul promised to overcome anti-Tokyo resentment.

North Korea's nuclear threat was a dominant theme of Saturday's round of talks at a lakeside retreat outside this ancient Korean capital.

Seoul, Japan and their Western allies have become impatient with the Stalinist North's reluctance to comply with demands to allow inspections of nuclear sites where it is feared atomic bombs are being developed.

Mr. Hosokawa and Mr. Kim told a joint news conference Sunday they had agreed to try to resolve the issue through dialogue rather than by international sanctions.

"Although I do not know the direction of (United Nations) sanctions against North Korea relating to its nuclear problem, we agreed it is important to try to solve the issue through dialogue as far as possible," Mr. Hosokawa said.

Analysts said Mr. Hosokawa's short trip may pave the way for a first-ever trip to South Korea by Emperor Akihito.

Meanwhile, North Korea Sunday criticised the U.S.-South Korea defence talks, which resulted in postponing a decision on whether the two countries should hold annual war games amid fears of North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development.

"It is absolute baloney and a shameful act for the very one who mounts a nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula" to express apprehensions against North Korea, the North Korean Workers Party newspaper said in a commentary.

In a joint statement after their talks in Seoul last week, U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin and his South Korean counterpart, Kwon Young-Hee, also called on North Korea to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

The commentary, carried by the Korean Central News Agency monitored here, accused the United States and South Korea of continuing "nuclear war exercises" and showing "they had no intention to solve the nuclear problem."

"We will decisively deal with the South Korean ruling group's continued hostile attitude against us and their act of

Arcangues scores huge Breeders' Cup upset

ARCADIA, Calif. (R) — European longshot Arcangues shattered past-tiring horses in the stretch of the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Classic Saturday to score the biggest upset in the history of the championship series.

The 5-year-old Arcangues, the longest shot in the classic field at 133-1, salvaged the day for a European contingent that was facing a shutout for the second straight year at the Breeders' Cup.

It was the biggest upset in the history of North America's richest race, capping a day of tight racing before a sun-drenched crowd of over 55,130 at sunsplashed Santa Anita Park. Arcangues, the winner of a group one race at Longchamp in Paris in May, paid \$269.20 for a \$2 win bet.

The Allez France stables victory dashed American hopes of a second straight sweep in the cup as all six earlier races were taken by American horses, five of them by runners based in California.

Under jockey Jerry Bailey, Arcangues turned on the speed in deep stretch to beat Bertrando, the California horse that led most of the way in the 1 1/4-mile run. Florida-bred Kissin Kris finished third.

Arcangues jockey Jerry Bailey said even he was shocked by the horse.

"He's a different horse than I worked out this week. He's got a heart as big as that track," he said. As Bailey ran into the jockey's room, he shouted, "I'm buying."

Arcangues' trainer Andre Fabre said, "this is the caper. We've been coming to these races for years and this one taught us all off guard."

Bailey admitted after the race that he could hardly understand Fabre's pre-race instructions and wasn't even sure how to pronounce his horse's name.

The Europeans had done so badly prior to the classic, the final race of the seven-race



Jockey Chris McLarron (right), riding Bien Bien, looks at jockey Kent Desormeaux (left), riding Kotashaan, after Kotashaan won by nose against

championship series, that American horses even won both grass races, with Lure winning the mile and Kotashaan grabbing the turf.

In the \$2 million turf, Kotashaan, bred in France but unraced in Europe, sprinted for the win after lagging back in the pack for most of the race. Bien Bien took second. Lure, also bred in France, but owned by an American, dropped to third after leading much of the way.

Kotashaan jockey Kent Desormeaux said he expected a battle with Bien Bien, whom the 5-year-old had lost to twice this year. "Today when I came to Bien Bien my horse was really strong and I said 'oh my God, bold on Kotashaan.'"

U.S. based-trainer Richard Mandella said Kotashaan newly sold to Japan's Lex Syndicate, will probably run the Japan Cup next month in Tokyo.

Lure, the defending mile champion, had recovered from a bad start to rush past a 13-horse field and grab the \$1

million Breeders' Cup Mile.

Under jockey Mike Smith, the four-year-old colt drifted five wide in the first turn, but recovered to clock a 1:33.58 time for a grass race that included a host of European challengers. Lure, the heavy favourite of the crowd, paid \$4.60 to win on a \$2 ticket.

Ski Paradise, a French challenger also saddled by Fabre, placed second in the mile, one-and-a-half lengths back.

Lure's rider, Mike Smith, said he wasn't worried about being taken five wide in the first turn. "He may not be the classic mile-and-a-half turf horse, but no one can beat him going a mile. I mean no one," Smith said.

"In the hack stretch I knew we had it won, I was just handing him all the time," he added.

Britain's Baratheas nearly took a tumble in the first turn, going wide and pushing fellow British colt Catrail and France's Bigstone far outside. Baratheas recovered to finish

fifth and Bigstone was sixth, but Catrail ran a disappointing 12th.

Baratheas jockey Gary Stevens said, "it's basically a sprint race and don't forget we're going a different way than he's used to."

Earlier, favourite Hollywood Wildcat took the \$1 million distaff, just edging defending champion Paseana by a nose in 1 1/4-mile race. Hollywood Wildcat's jockey Eddie Delahoussaye said he dropped his whip in the stretch before closing strong.

In the \$1 million juvenile fillies 1-1/16-mile race, phone chatter nipped favourite Sardula by a nose in a tight finish. France's Coup De Genie finished fourth.

In the \$1 million sprint, French-owned seven-year-old Cardania stole a victory, coming from the middle of the pack to win at the wire.

The winner of the \$1 million juvenile was Brocco, a California based two-year running for only the third time, leaving favourite Dehere far back.

Holyfield regains boxing titles

By John Phillips
Reuter

LAS VEGAS — In the most bizarre night of boxing in memory, a skydiver parachuted into the ring, the champion's pregnant wife was taken to hospital and after the fight his 82-year-old trainer — also overcome by excitement — followed her.

Oh, by the way, there is a new heavyweight champion.

Evander Holyfield upset Riddick Bowe Saturday night with a majority decision after 12 rounds to regain two of the titles he lost to Bowe a year ago.

In the process Bowe's wife, Judy, who is three months pregnant, was taken to hospital from ringside in shock but apparently is okay.

Later Bowe's trainer, Eddie Futch, was taken to the hospital, apparently suffering from heart palpitations. He was not thought to be in serious condition but remained in the hospital overnight, said Bowe's manager, Rock Newman.

The parachutist, who easily survived his descent into the ring in the seventh round, did not fare so well at the hands of enraged ringfighters, who pummeled him until he had to be taken to the hospital.

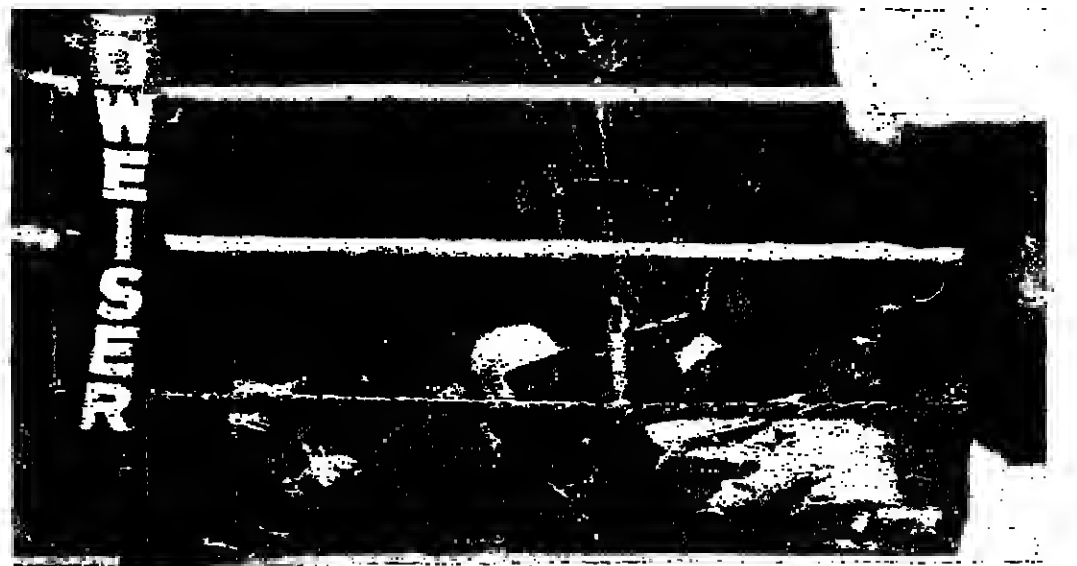
Even by the extravagant standards of America's gambling capital Las Vegas it was a night to remember.

Police identified the skydiver, whom they say was actually using a parasail that somehow included a propeller, as James Miller, 30. He was charged with "dangerous flying" after being released from the hospital. He has so far given no reason for his stunt.

In the undercard to the flight of the parachutist, Holyfield overcame his addiction to brawling with bigger, stronger opponents.

Both fighters said they did not believe the unprecedented events in round seven affected the outcome of the bout. But both Holyfield and Bowe said the first thing that flashed into their minds when they saw the skydiver was the knife attack on tennis star Monica Seles.

It was Holyfield's compulsion to brawl with his opponents that led him to defeat when he lost his heavyweight



An unidentified parachutist lands on the ring heavyweight title fight between Evander Holyfield and Riddick Bowe Saturday (AFP photo)

titles to Bowe last November.

In that fight, which Bowe won on a unanimous decision, Holyfield constantly brawled, toe-to-toe much too often with the much bigger and stronger Bowe and paid the price.

But on this weird Saturday Holyfield controlled himself. He threw jabs and combinations and then moved away from Bowe's long arms.

Holyfield did go toe-to-toe. But this time he almost literally was standing on Bowe's toes, burrowing his face into Bowe's chest, not letting him get any leverage to do much damage.

The result was that Holyfield fought a smart fight, as he said he would, and won back the World Boxing Association and the International Boxing Federation titles.

Briton Lennox Lewis is the World Boxing Council champion.

"What I had to prove was that a setback does not make me a bum," Holyfield said. "What I did is correct a mistake. It was not so much winning the title as redeeming myself."

"I know I hurt him," Holyfield said. "I got respect. He wasn't as eager to get on me this time."

"He rocked me a lot and hit me with some good punches. I'm stronger this fight, but the difference is last fight I stayed in and got caught."

Bowe got caught this time, caught expecting the same old Holyfield, a fighter who could

not kick his brawling habit. Bowe started out like a fighter possessed, throwing punches in the first round as if they were going to stop making them.

"I was worried," Steward said about that round. "Evander survived it, but more to the point Evander didn't blast him back. Evander was just sharper than the first time."

"He made it like a chess game. He got Bowe thinking."

He also got Bowe hurting. Bowe, now 34-1, won the first three rounds on two of the three judges' scorecards. But Holyfield, now 27-1, began coming on in the fourth round, winning it and the next two unanimously.

In the fourth, he shook off a left hook and right upper cut and got in close where he landed a good right-left of his own and then a series of combinations towards the end of the round.

Both fighters ignored the bell, whaling away at each other with about 10 punches each.

With the crowd cheering, "Holy, Holy, Holy," Holyfield landed a left-right to Bowe's head and followed it with a tremendous left and an overhand right that backed up Bowe. Another very short right wobbled Bowe at the bell.

Bowe, 26, seemed to take the sixth round off, ignoring his powerful and accurate jab. Holyfield, 31, had a field day

and by the end of the round, Bowe, who had lost about 40 pounds (18.1 kg) in less than a month, was gasping for breath. Holyfield, who gained 12 pounds (5.4 kg) from their first fight to weigh 217 pounds (98.4 kg), also opened a cut on the bridge of Bowe's nose.

In the seventh round, Bowe, who outweighed Holyfield by 29 pounds (13.1 kg) and was three inches (7.6 cm) taller, was coming back strongly, when all of a sudden the parachutist whipped in under the ring's canopy and landed on the ring apron. He fell back into the crowd near Bowe's wife, Judy.

The fight was delayed for about 20 minutes, while people and parasail were collected.

After the excitement subsided outside of the ring, Bowe's momentum, at least in the eyes of two of the judges, seemed to have slowed.

The two fighters just about split the remaining rounds, but Bowe, who earned at least \$11 million, needed more than that to hold onto his titles.

"He had better balance and kept his head closer to Bowe's chest, so Bowe's size was to his disadvantage," Steward said. Holyfield, who will earn about \$9.5 million, "was a looser, more agile fighter this time," Steward said.

"It wasn't the sky diver and it wasn't the cuts," Bowe, 26, said. "Evander won the fight. I want to do this again. This was a real brawl."

Prost says goodbye to Formula One

Senna wins Australian Grand Prix

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — Four-time world champion Alain Prost said goodbye to 13 years of Formula One racing Sunday, opting for family life in preference to another season in the fast lane.

"I will feel a bit more free. My life should be a little better," the Frenchman said after finishing second in Australia on his favourite circuit in his 199th and final Grand Prix.

Known as "the professor" for his studious and pragmatic driving style, the 38-year-old Prost walks away from Adelaide with the 1993 World Championship, which he clinched in Portugal on Sept. 26.

Prost, who quit Formula One racing for a season two years ago, has promised this time that there will be no return and that he wants to spend more time with his wife and two sons at their home in Switzerland.

"I am quite happy to change and maybe I will be much much happier or maybe not, I really don't know. But for sure



Ayrton Senna waves the Brazilian flag on his victory lap after winning the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide Sunday (AFP photo)

my life will be different," he told reporters.

Sunday's race was not quite a perfect finale because he finished second behind ING-time rival Ayrton Senna.

The fiery Brazilian won comfortably to end the season with five wins, compared with

Prost's seven.

"It was difficult for me before the start," he said. "I kept thinking it was the last time I would put on my gloves and the last time I was doing everything."

Sunday's race also marked a milestone as the often volatile six-year relationship between Senna and Prost drew to a close amid a vague reconciliation between the two.

"I think we've had a good time," Prost said, referring to Senna. "Because I'm retiring I think it's good to remember the good times we've had."

Senna was equally cordial, if not sentimental. "Today is the end of an era, for him and for me," he told reporters. "We were both on the podium after the race. It's just as well we had the opportunity to wish each other good."

Prost is scheduled to go to France for some promotional work before heading to his home in Switzerland, where he plans some quality time with two sons, aged 13 and three. "I never had a normal life with my family," he said.

He leaves behind several world records, including 51 Grand Prix wins and the most points in the history of Formula One at 798.5. He is also the only Frenchman to win a Formula One World Championship.

Such honours have safely landed the soft-spoken driver a

slot among the legends in the business, such as Britain's Jackie Stewart, Australia's Jack Brabham and Argentinian Juan Fangio, who holds the most World Championships.

Many thought another season would have seen Prost match Fangio's record five Formula One titles, but Prost has adamantly quelled speculation of another year in racing.

He has held out the possibility, however, of returning to Formula One in a different role, such as a team manager. But he has ruled out picking up where he left off as a 1992 Grand Prix trackside television commentator.

Senna won in a record-breaking last drive for McLaren.

Senna scorched to victory in his final battle with Prost, lapping all but two of his competitors in Sunday's Australian Formula One Grand Prix.

The Brazilian finished in 1 hour, 43 minutes, 27.47 seconds for 79 laps of the 3.780-kilometre (2.348-mile) Adelaide Street Circuit in his McLaren-Ford, an average speed of 173.183 kilometres (107.611 miles) an hour.

Prost was second in his Williams-Renault, 9.259 seconds behind his toughest combatant of the past decade, Damon Hill of Britain was third in the second Williams-

Chicago Bulls burned by Heat in home opener

CHICAGO (R) — The defending National Basketball Association (NBA) champion Chicago Bulls got their first real taste of life after Michael Jordan Saturday when they were embarrassed in their home opener by the Miami Heat.

One night after a dramatic 124-123 season-opening overtime win in Charlotte, the Bulls sorely missed the 30-plus points averaged by their retired superstar as they were burned by the Heat 95-71.

Rony Seikaly scored 28 points to lead the Heat as Miami held Chicago to a humiliating franchise-low six points in the second quarter on the night the Bulls received their 1992-93 NBA Championship rings.

The Bulls managed only 25 points in the first half, also a franchise low, and the 71 points was third-lowest in club history.

Glen Rice added 24 points for the Heat, while Scottie Pippen paced the Bulls with 18 points.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal had his second huge game in as many nights, scoring 36 points to lead the Magic to a 114-89 rout of the Philadelphia

76ers.

O'Neal, who had 42 points and 12 rebounds in the Magic's season-opening win at Miami, had 13 points in the third quarter when Orlando increased its lead to 87-74.

The Magic went on an 18-8 run in the first eight minutes of the fourth quarter to put the game away.

O'Neal, who also blocked five shots and grabbed seven rebounds, thorough dominant Philadelphia's giant rookie centre Shawn Bradley, the NBA number two overall draft pick.

Shawn Kemp scored 30 points to lead the Supersonics to a 129-101 victory over the visiting Los Angeles Lakers in Seattle's season opener.

The Sonics, who came within one victory of reaching the NBA finals last season, built an 18-point halftime lead and cruised to victory.

Seattle, which led by as many as 37 points late in the fourth quarter, was the only team in the NBA which did not begin the season Friday.

In Milwaukee, Dell Curry sparked a furious fourth-quarter rally as the Charlotte Hornets posted a 120-103 victory over the Bucks.

Milwaukee beld an 85-83

lead after three quarters, but Curry hit wo three-point jumpers to spark a 14-2 run as Charlotte outscored the Bucks 37-18 in the final quarter.

Curry scored 10 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and Johnny Newman, who had 27 in Friday's loss to Chicago, paced the Hornets again with 25 points.

Hersey Hawkins chipped in 24 points for Charlotte, while Milwaukee's Ken Norman led all scorers with 28 points.

At Washington, Dino Radja and Xavier McDaniel sparked a 12-4 run to start the fourth quarter and lead the Boston Celtics to a 100-88 win over the Detroit Pistons to a 113-107 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

The Celtics led 76-68 after

three quarters and Radja and McDaniel each made three baskets as Boston opened an 88-72 lead with 9:05 to play and never looked back.

Kevin Gamble scored 18 points and Dee Brown added 17 for the Celtics, who had six players in double figures. Radja finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds and McDaniel added 12.

Michael Adams scored 22 points and Rookie Calbert Cheaney added 20 for the Bulls.

In Indianapolis, Joe Dumars scored 10 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 113-107 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH CHAIR SHARP
A TANNAN FISHCH
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LARCENY IN ESTONIA

East-West vulnerable. South

deals.

NORTH

♠ A J 9 7 5

♥ Q J 10 2

♦ 10 6 4 3

♣ Void

EAST

♠ 10 8 4 3

♥ A 6 5

♦ K 3

♣ 9 8 7 5 3

SOUTH

♠ Q 3 7 4

♥ A Q

♦ K Q 5 3

♣ K Q 5 3

The dealer:

South West North East

1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

The breakup of the Soviet Union

has had a dramatic effect on the

World Bridge Federation. Several of

the newly independent states ap-

plied for membership and will be

playing in the 1993 European

Championships. This hand is from

Estonia's Trials to select a team for

PHILADELPHIA

JURASSIC PARK

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD

CONCORD '1'

Harrison Ford — in

The Fugitive

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD '2'

Tom Cruise & Demy Moore — in

A Few Good Men

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

PLAZA

Eric Roberts — in

Best of the Best II

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

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A popular political comedy

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NEWS IN BRIEF

'PLO wants more than 23,000 policemen'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has proposed to set up a 23,000-strong armed police force plus an intelligence wing for the five-year interim period of autonomy in the occupied territories, a newspaper reported Sunday. A national security force of 16,300 men should have helicopters, patrol boats, mortars and machineguns to protect border crossings, the coastline, public buildings and institutions, according to the daily Haaretz. Nizar Amar, security chief of the main PLO group Fatah, presented the plan to Israeli negotiators at autonomy talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba, the paper said. Six thousand men would be posted to the Gaza Strip, 1,800 to Jericho and the rest of the West Bank. Under the Sept. 13 autonomy deal Israeli troops are to withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank town by April 13. An ordinary police force of 7,650 men would patrol the roads and maintain order — 4,000 on the West Bank, 3,000 in Gaza and 650 in Jericho. The strength of the proposed intelligence branch was not specified, Haaretz said. It would protect Palestinian officials.

Israel wants U.S. to pay for redeployment

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will ask the United States for up to \$500 million to pay for the army's redeployment under autonomy in the occupied territories, a newspaper reported Sunday. Mr. Rabin, who leaves on Wednesday for a 10-day visit to Washington, wants the money on top of the \$1.8 billion of annual U.S. military aid, Haaretz said. Israel also receives \$1.3 billion each year in U.S. civilian aid. Army chief-of-staff Ehud Barak has told a parliamentary committee that the redeployment would cost between \$175 million and \$250 million. But Haaretz said Mr. Rabin would ask for between \$300 and \$500 million.

'PLO arrests another Mossad spy'

MANAMA (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has arrested another suspected spy for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, the Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat reported Sunday. Quoting Palestinian sources, it said Mohammad Sadek was in charge of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's radio service. He "surrendered of his own free will to the PLO leader and confessed to working for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad," the sources told the newspaper. They gave no date for his arrest. A PLO committee is already investigating one of its senior officials in Tunis, Adnan Hassan Yassin, for allegedly spying for Mossad. His son Hani has also been arrested.

3 Israeli-allied militiamen wounded

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas attacked an outpost manned by Israeli-backed militiamen in South Lebanon Sunday. Security sources said three militiamen were wounded. They said the attackers fired rocket-propelled grenades against the hilltop position of Souwaida, destroying an armoured personnel carrier of the Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia. All those wounded in the assault were aboard the armoured personnel carrier, said the sources. They said Israeli gunners and SLA militiamen struck back with an artillery barrage on guerrilla hideouts in Iqim Al Tuffah facing Souwaida in the central sector of a self-styled "security zone" Israel occupies in South Lebanon.

Yemeni parliament trying to reconcile leaders

SANAA (R) — The Yemeni parliament is trying to solve the political crisis caused by a longstanding disagreement between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, an official newspaper said Sunday. The official newspaper Al Thawra said a special parliamentary committee formed on Friday would meet political and military officials to try to reconcile the two men.

Iraq discloses vital information to U.N.

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iraq has disclosed vital information about its covert uranium enrichment programme, a U.N. nuclear expert said Sunday. Richard Hooper, who arrived here from Iraq earlier Sunday, said the new information he had obtained closed "one of the big holes" about Iraq's secret nuclear weapons programme, exposed after the 1991 Gulf war. Mr. Hooper, an American working with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, said the new information was related to foreign assistance which enabled Iraq to enrich uranium to weapons-grade levels using special centrifuges. Mr. Hooper gave no details about the new disclosures.

U.S. denies betrayal of Iraqi coup plot

MANAMA (AFP) — The United States embassy in Bahrain on Sunday denied that U.S. officials had betrayed a plot to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in July. It issued a statement from the State Department saying: "The charge that the United States government or any of its officials provided the government of Iraq any leak or indication whatsoever leading to the arrest of coup plotters is completely false and without any foundation whatsoever. While we would not normally comment at all on stories about intelligence matters, this accusation is so baseless and harmful that it must be denied."

Algerian paper blasts U.N. Sahara envoy

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian newspaper urged the United Nations Sunday to sack its special envoy for Western Sahara, describing his behaviour as unacceptable. The independent Al Watan accused Sahazada Yaqub Khan of discrimination against the Polisario Front which seeks independence in the desert territory claimed by Morocco. "He spends five days in Rabat, four hours in the Saharan refugee camps, before returning to the Moroccan capital to attend the anniversary of the 'green march'," the newspaper said. Saturday was the anniversary of a Nov. 6, 1975 march when Morocco sent thousands of its citizens carrying green flags into the former Spanish colony to back its claims to the area.

Kuwait plans death penalty for hijacking

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait is planning to introduce the death penalty for plane hijackings which result in deaths, the newspaper Kuwait Times reported Sunday. The government, in a draft law, also called for life imprisonment for hijackers found guilty of hostage-taking, causing injuries or inflicting damage to public property.

189 Kuwaiti policemen accused since liberation

KUWAIT (AP) — Some 189 policemen have faced accusations of rape, robbery, unlawful arrest and accepting bribes in the past 2½ years, a government official was quoted Sunday as saying. Colonel Abdullah Adas, an interior Ministry official, told the English-language daily Arab Times the high number was due to the "young ages of new men on the force and lack of experience." Kuwait has faced a shortage of qualified candidates for the police because it fired many of the stateless Arabs who used to form the bedrock of the police force.

Gunmen kill policeman in Aswan

ASSUIT (AP) — Suspected Muslim militants shot to death a policeman and wounded an eight-year-old child in the southern city of Aswan on Sunday in the latest of a spiral of attacks on security forces. This is the second incident by suspected Muslim militants in a week in Aswan, a major tourist site on the Nile River about 700 kilometers south of Cairo.

Self-rule talks resume in Cairo today

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat announced here Sunday that the Palestinians agreed to resume autonomy negotiations with Israel, but in Cairo, away from the glare of publicity, rather than Egypt's Red Sea resort of Taba.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters the negotiations would reconvene on Monday.

The negotiations, Mr. Arafat told reporters after meeting President Hosni Mubarak, are to "resume very soon in Cairo." But he had declined to give a date for a new round of the talks, which the PLO broke off last Tuesday.

PLO's chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said the date was being withheld to avoid publicity and advance the talks at the table rather than through the media. But Israel Radio, also saying

the talks would reconvene, disclosed Monday as the date before the announcement from Mr. Musa.

The decision to return to the talks was taken because of the results of Mr. Musa's visit to Israel last week, Mr. Arafat said, adding that Israel appeared ready to reconsider its stand on a withdrawal from Gaza.

Mr. Musa had voiced optimism the talks would restart after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The Palestinian delegation quit the autonomy talks after accusing Israel of trying to renege on a commitment to withdraw all its troops from the Gaza Strip.

Israel proposed to pull back troops to three areas around Jewish settlements on the strip,

voicing security concerns, while the Palestinians demanded a "general military withdrawal."

Mr. Arafat said the Cairo negotiations would be undertaken by an "ad hoc committee," which Dr. Shaath said would comprise four members of each delegation and focus on Israel's "concept of security."

"The Israelis are using the security of the settlements as a pretext to hold on to 170 of the 360 square kilometres that make the area of Gaza," he said.

Mr. Arafat said the dispute was the result of an "Israeli misinterpretation" of the autonomy accord signed on Sept. 13.

Asked if the Israelis had made any concessions to bring the Palestinians back to the negotiating table, Mr. Arafat

said: "No concessions."

The heads of the Palestinian and Israeli negotiating teams in Taba, Dr. Shaath and Major-General Amnon Shahak, will lead the teams made up of other negotiators from Taba.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israeli Radio on Saturday night that the negotiations would resume this week on early Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, part of the Sept. 13 self-rule deal.

"Gaza-Jericho first" is part of a wider deal on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories. The deal specifies a five-year interim period before both sides negotiate the final status of the territories.

Asked if the negotiators had run into problems over interpreting the declaration of principles, Mr. Arafat said: "No, the agreement was very clear."

It talked about withdrawal while they (the Israelis) are now talking about redeployment."

Palestinians say Israeli proposals to police heavily Jewish settlements in Gaza and secure main roads to and from them into Israel and control the external borders of Gaza and Jericho contradict the agreement.

"We hope the talks will start on Monday," said Israeli spokesman Gad Ben-Ari, adding that Israel was still waiting for a formal announcement from the Palestinians.

"The talks in Taba take place in front of the camera. The fact that every two hours negotiators have to come out and make statements doesn't help to reach significant progress at the pace we would have

(Continued on page 5)

Killing of settler triggers rampage

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Hundreds of Israelis went on the rampage on the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank after suspected Palestinian hardliners wounded a settler leader and killed his driver on Sunday.

The violence erupted after assailants pumped 20 bullets into a van carrying a founder of the Gush Emunim settler movement, which believes Israel should annex the occupied territories.

The 30-year-old driver, a Gaza settler, died and Rabbi Chaim Druckman, a former member of parliament for the National Religious Party, was injured in the shoulder in the shooting outside Hebron, an army spokesman said.

Troops launched a massive manhunt. In reprisals more than 20 Palestinians were injured in the occupied territories, correspondents reported, despite appeals for calm from the army and government.

"The government is determined to pursue even more intensively the peace process as if terrorism did not exist and the fight against terrorism as if there was no peace," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said.

On the Gaza Strip angry settlers burnt down an Arab

house at Dier El Balah, blocked roads, smashed cars windows, torched greenhouses and tried to set a school and a petrol station ablaze.

At least 10 Gazans were taken to hospital after being beaten or stoned.

The army clamped a curfew on Palestinians in Hebron as settlers rampaged through the streets firing in the air, overturning Palestinian market stalls, and damaging dozens of cars, witnesses said.

Three Palestinians were shot and wounded and about a dozen beaten before soldiers restored order.

Settler leaders announced they would put up roadblocks across the occupied territories for three hours early Monday in protest at the killing.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack in wall graffiti at Rafah and military sources said the operation bore their hallmark.

However, in Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which rejects the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy deal as does Hamas, also claimed responsibility.

Settlers assailed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's peace moves with Palestinians,



A Jewish settler waves with his gun at a Hebron street after the death of a Gaza settler, who was killed in an attack near Hebron Sunday (AFP photo)

including his release of prisoners.

Aharon Domb, a spokesman for the 125,000 Jews who live in settlements scattered among the nearly two million Palestinians, vowed: "If there's no security for the residents, there won't be any movement whatsoever."

Leading Palestinian Faisal Al Hussein said: "We are sorry for the loss of life on both sides." But he added the settlers, "through their irresponsible actions and repeated aggressions, form an element of chaos and instability."

Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Giv'at said peace

moves would go on while the government continued striking at hardliners.

Soldiers closed off villages in the area of the shooting to search for the attackers and declared curfews in Hebron to ward off settler protests.

Outside Hebron, students led settlers blocking the main road near where Sunday's shooting took place and similar protests were held on the Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Ramallah to Nablus and Khan Yunis to Gaza City roads.

The violence led the cabinet to put off a decision expected Sunday to take PLO off its list

of "terror" groups following the autonomy agreement, Israel radio reported.

The killing was the second in the occupied West Bank in as many weeks. The killing of a settler Oct. 29 set off almost a week of riots. Two other civilians and two soldiers have also been killed since the peace agreement was signed Sept. 13, as well as 15 Palestinians.

Violence in the occupied territories poses the greatest threat to the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, stalled over the extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Libya asks Switzerland to try Pan Am suspects

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya announced Sunday it has officially asked Switzerland to try two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am 103, one day before the U.N. Security Council was due to meet to adopt tougher sanctions against Tripoli.

But the offer, made by the suspects' lawyers, falls short of the West's demand that Libya hand over the two for trial in the United States or Britain and is not expected to affect the Security Council's vote.

Ibrahim Legwell, a Libyan lawyer heading the suspects' 12-member defence team, told the Associated Press that the Libyan Foreign Ministry contacted Swiss authorities on Oct. 27 to make the offer.

Mr. Legwell said there has been no response yet but he expects one in two days.

"We also asked the Swiss authorities to contact the American government to accept our offer," said Mr. Legwell speaking in a tele-

phone interview from Tripoli.

He said the Libyan government has also informed U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali of its new initiative.

Libya has previously mentioned Switzerland as a possible site for the trial saying it would be suitable as a neutral country. But the Swiss foreign ministry has said it sees no reason why the trial should be held there.

"The defence team were not content with a negative position rejecting trial in Scotland, but adopted the position, which (suspects) Abdul Baset and Ali Amin also adopted being confident of their innocence, of standing in a fair trial in a neutral country, more specifically Switzerland," Mr. Legwell said in a statement to Reuters in Tunis.

Britain and the United States accuse Abdul Baset Ali Al Megrahi and Ali Amin Khalifa Fhimah of blowing up the Pan Am Jumbo jet.

Indian troops foil escape from besieged mosque

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — Indian troops besieging Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine foiled an escape attempt by at least one of a group of trapped separatist militants, a commander said on Sunday.

Brigadier S.P.S. Kanwar, whose troops surround the Hazratbal Mosque in Srinagar, told reporters the militants apparently dropped an escape plan when soldiers spotted one of them near the fence of the complex.

"One militant, trying to escape, crawled out of the building and crossed the fence at 3.30 this morning," Brig. Kanwar told reporters.

"We could have nabbed him there, but we decided not to," he added, apparently meaning the soldiers did not want to give the militants an excuse to break off talks on ending a siege now more than three weeks old.

Brig. Kanwar said the militant, foiled in the breakout bid, appeared to have other colleagues waiting to follow

him out of the complex on the shores of Dal Lake in Srinagar, summer capital of largely Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state.

"We later spotted two chaps looking into our area from the prayer room," Brig. Kanwar added.

There were more talks with the militants on Sunday, but no suggestion of serious movement towards a settlement since the siege began on Oct. 15.

The police chief of Kashmir, meanwhile, ruled out a storming of the mosque.

"Everyone of us has been reiterating that the Hazratbal shrine will not be stormed," Director General of Police Manohar Nath Sabherwal told reporters.

"The government is doing its best to find an amicable solution (to the standoff) through negotiations with the militants holed up inside (the shrine)," he said.

The army wants the guerrillas to give themselves up.

Palestinians seek refugee status

AMMAN (R) — Thousands of Palestinians, hoping for compensation under a peace settlement, have been applying to the United Nations for refugee status since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed a peace agreement, U.N. officials said Sunday.

It is the first time the number of applications has risen since the original registration of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Several hundred families have been presenting themselves whom we categorise as unregistered refugees ... who lost their homes as a result of the conflict and had not bothered to register," said Dennis Brown, director of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jordan.

Palestinian refugee families average more than seven people.

The PLO-Israel agreement signed in September, while

seen by some as dimming hopes of 1948 refugees ever returning home, has raised hopes of individual compensation. Jordanian officials expect few 1948 refugees to leave Jordan even if they can.

UNRWA started operations in May 1950, taking over Red Cross records. Registration of refugee families ended in 1954 and an unknown number of people were never included in the 1.1 million registered refugees in Jordan.

Since then most applications have been made by descendants of the original refugee families. Since the agreement there has been a sharp rise in applicants seeking the original refugee status, though none have yet been accepted.

UNRWA defines a refugee as "a person who was living in Palestine for two years preceding the conflict in 1948 and as a result lost his home and means of livelihood and took refuge in UNRWA's area of operation."

Agency officials say it was

applying it strictly to the new applicants to prevent a flood of applicants.

"We have to maintain the integrity of our registration ... it's a very involved process and they have to prove residency in Palestine in 1946 to 1948," Mr. Brown told Reuters.

The 1948 refugees are one of the thorniest issues left for negotiation in final status talks in the PLO-Israel accord.

Israel, however, has agreed to discuss the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled the West Bank and Gaza during the 1967 war.

Since the start of the year, UNRWA has also made its first major change in the refugee registration system since family cards allowing aid were provided in the early 1950s.

The agency now lists the names of dependants instead of only their numbers, updating births, deaths and marriages. Over 100,000 changes were made to the nearly 150,000 families who hold cards for U.N. relief services.

Aid group assails U.N. mission

PARIS (R) — A scathing report by a leading world medical charity accuses the United Nations of foot-dragging, bungling and recklessness in former Yugoslavia and Somalia.

A draft of the 219-page report by Medecins Sans Frontieres is a bitter indictment of the U.N. and Western powers, blamed for tolerating and even contributing to human suffering.

"The functioning of U.N. agencies continues to be hampered by inertia, irresponsibility and sometimes incompetence which undermine their ability to react, especially in urgent situations," the report said.

"Like Western countries, it (the U.N. Security Council) is long on statements and short on determination."

Belgian-based Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) has medical experts and volunteers operating in most of the world's hot spots.

An advance copy of the report, entitled "Facing crises"

and to be published later this month in Paris, was obtained by Reuters. It will be the basis of a Nov. 18 conference in Paris on world crises.

The report, which investigates tensions in eight other countries ranging from Cambodia to El Salvador, has virtually no praise for the U.N. or its most powerful members.

Its most controversial plea is for the U.N. or Western powers to intervene more decisively to protect the rights of minorities, emerging states and the powerless, and to pay less heed to the "outdated" concept of the nation state.

At a time when appeals from the oppressed or minorities for protection have neither the financial resources nor the military means nor above all the will to impose a new world order based on human rights.

The report reserves its most withering criticism for U.N. diplomacy and military operations in former Yugoslavia, where they "discredited themselves through inertia and indecision."

Their irresolution brought disastrous results and left the field open to aggression and ethnic purification, it says. More than 200,000 Bosnians, most of them Muslims, have died and 2.3 million have been uprooted in the conflict.

The U.N. dithered before imposing economic sanctions on ramp Yugoslavia and implementing a "no-fly" zone in Bosnia while Serb soldiers used methods resembling those of Nazi Germany, it says.

During the wait there were "massacres and atrocities: bombings of civilians, food blockades, selective destruction of villages and neighbourhoods, arbitrary jailings, torture, systematic rape, summary executions."

Aid organisations, meanwhile, were "harassed, threatened, or looted by militia, even in the presence of U.N. troops who looked on passively from their vehicles."

In Croatia, U.N. soldiers arrived too late to prevent widespread killing of civilians or permit the return of 500,000 refugees.

COLUMN 8

Japan's empress uses sign language

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Empress Michiko, unable to speak since a mysterious illness three weeks ago, used sign language for the first time during a tour in the south when Emperor Akihito, local media said Sunday. The 59-year-old empress communicated with some disabled people Saturday during a visit to a welfare centre, at the start of a five-day provincial tour, news reports said. Palace officials had said some of her engagement might be dropped, including attendance at receptions as visits to homes for the elderly where she would normally be required to speak. Empress Michiko, who has been recuperating in her Akasaka Palace home since she collapsed on Oct. 20, her birthday, is said to be suffering from an illness caused by "deep sorrow". Her symptoms at first prompted speculation she had suffered a minor stroke but recent palace comments have suggested she is suffering from deep depression, partly caused by a recent spate of crime magazine articles.

Tabloid shows scantily clad Diana working out

LONDON (R) — A tabloid newspaper Sunday printed secretly-taken pictures of scantily-clad Princess Diana exercising in a private gymnasium in Britain's latest case of sensational snooping on the royal family. A head-on picture of the 32-year-old princess sitting astride an exercise machine in cycling shorts and revealing, cambrise leotard took up the entire front page of the Sunday Mirror under the headline "Di spy sensation. More pictures of 'the world's most coveted cover girl' including a centre-fold of the estranged wife of heir-to-the throne Prince Charles in second brightly-coloured leotard, were splashed over inside pages. The newspaper said the pictures, which are bound to enrage Buckingham Palace and inflame a national debate about persistent media intrusion into the lives of the royal family, were taken with hidden camera by the owner of the club, Bryce Taylor, a New Zealander who owns the private West London L.A. Fitness Club, was quoted as saying: "I know people who hate me for what I have done but I'm not ashamed." "On the one hand it's an incredibly sneaky thing to do but on the other Diana knows she is on public view when she comes into the club," said Taylor, who installed an expensive camera with a quiet shutter to catch the princess unwavering British police, whose protection squad is responsible for Princess Diana's safety, would not comment on the security implications of the secret photographs.

Prince Edward gets himself a job

LONDON (AP) — Prince Edward, the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II, said he and a media friend have launched a television production company, Prince Edward, 29, will become joint managing director and part-owner of Ardent Productions, which he said would make high-quality programmes. The prince said in a statement he was "looking forward to working full time with my new colleagues" in making Ardent Productions into a name that everyone would come to recognise as makers of serious arts, drama and documentary programmes for British television. The move — announced as Prince Edward completed a two-week official royal trip to western Africa — marks the prince's return to the working world. In July 1991 the last entertainment company he helped found, Theatre Division, folded £600,000 (\$900,000) in debt. Since then taxpayers and now his mother, have supported him to the tune of £96,000 (\$135,000) a year. The queen agreed earlier this year to cover her youngest son's royal grant and to begin paying income taxes as part of a package of financial reforms affecting the world's richest monarch. It was not clear whether the new job would mean a reduction in his royal proceeds. Prince Edward's business partner at Ardent will be Ed Foggitt, a lawyer and former business manager at the British Broadcasting Corporation.